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POLISH MBFR ENVOY: WESTERN ACTIONS NEEDED, NOT ASSURANCES

LD0116O1Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[K. Perevoshchikov report: "Before the Next Round"]

[Text] Vienna--The last round of the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe ended, without advancing toward their projected goal.

Now, after a short working recess, those taking part in the talks have again assembled in Vienna to continue the search for mutually acceptable agreements.

The thrust and the nature of the talks, as determined at preliminary consultations by those taking part, is to achieve military detente in a region where the largest and most dangerous concentration of opposing forces has been created--in central Europe. Fundamental principles were also defined: the reduction of armed forces and armaments without prejudicing the security of either side and without extracting any military advantages for themselves.

At all 13 previous rounds the Western delegations, in their obvious desire to drag out the process of coming to agreements, have advanced artificial conditions not justified by reality (or by the preliminary consultations).

Describing the talks, T. Strulak, head of the Polish delegation, told the IZVESTIYA correspondent:

"It is a matter of how to insure the equal reduction of armed forces and armaments in central Europe in order to lower the already high concentration of troops and combat facilities in this sensitive region. An equal contribution to the reduction process by each state with armed forces here is highly important, for only with such contributions will it be possible to insure military detente in central Europe without prejudicing the security of any country. The socialist states propose insuring the equality of the undertakings by means of an equal-percentage reduction of armed forces and their armaments. We agreed to the West's counterproposals to carry out a two-stage reduction, and in the first stage to reduce only Soviet and U.S. troops," Strulak continued. "As is well known, the socialist countries formerly advocated reducing the armed forces and armaments of all the direct participants in the talks in three stages. Nonetheless, we believe that the other Western participants in the talks also, including the FRG which possesses considerable armed forces and armaments, must give specific guarantees on their participation in the reduction process. In brief, mere assurances of a desire to take part in reductions will not do. Specific deeds are essential."

KULIKOV URGES EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN 'APPROXIMATE BALANCE'

LD300802Y Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 30, TASS--"The CPSU attentively studies and analyses the situation in the world, persistently pursues the line of making detente irreversible. At the same time, the USSR cannot but take into account the intrigues of the imperialist forces. Under these conditions, the Communist Party and the Soviet state show unremitting solicitude for maintaining our country's defence at the appropriate level, and permanently supplement their peaceful policy with all-round strengthening of the armed forces," Marshal Viktor Kulikov, USSR first deputy minister of defence, commander-in-chief of the joint armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty states, writes in the PARTIYNAYA ZHIZN journal.

In his article "60 Years on Guard of the Gains of the October Revolution" Marshal Kulikov notes: "While giving a real assessment of the successes achieved in the struggle for peace and easing of tensions, the CPSU CC and the Soviet Government permanently stress that the aggressive essence of imperialism has not changed, and that military danger has not been eliminated, that it will take tremendous efforts of all the peace forces so that the process of relaxation of tensions should become really universal and irreversible."

The article stresses that the aggressive NATO bloc is invigorating its activity. It is under the pressure of the United States, that the military spendings of the European NATO countries have more than doubled during the recent five years. Military appropriations are considerably growing in 1978 in practically all the NATO member-countries.

"Trying to justify in some way the arms race sweeping the capitalist countries, the reactionary propaganda is spreading all sorts of inventions about the so-called 'Soviet threat' and the 'communist conquest of the world', about the 'aggressiveness of the Warsaw Treaty' and its striving to subordinate the West European nations to its influence. The adventurist, militarist policy of the Chinese leadership constitutes a great danger to the cause of peace," Marshal Kulikov writes.

The article says: "The Soviet state effectively taking care of its defence, is not trying to achieve military supremacy over the other side, but it cannot allow either that the approximate balance, which has taken shape between the military forces of the East and West in central Europe, or between the USSR and the USA, be violated to the detriment of our security."

Marshal Kulikov notes that as long as the NATO bloc and the threat of unleashing a war by imperialism remains, it is the duty of the socialist states to strengthen the Warsaw Treaty Organization in every way possible.

WPC'S CHANDRA ADDRESSES MEXICO CITY PEACE CONFERENCE

LD021304Y Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Mexico City, February 2 TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Shekhovtsov reports:

A continental conference of Latin American and Caribbean basin countries for peace, sovereignty and economic independence has opened here. It is attended by representatives of different political, public, youth, trade union, religious organizations from 19 countries.

A speech at the conference was made by Romesh Chandra, president of the World Peace Council. The forum of the Latin American fighters for peace, democracy and social justice is being held at a time that the relaxation of international tension is becoming the main tendency in the relations between states, he said. Thanks to the efforts of the peace-loving public of the whole world, above all the Soviet Union and the socialist community as a whole, a new world war has been prevented in the past three decades. Meanwhile, our generation witnesses big and striking victories of the national liberation movements in all continents. The Vietnamese people's victory in the struggle against imperialist aggression of the United States is a victory of the whole of the progressive mankind. The peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and other countries are successfully upholding their gains on the African Continent.

In the European Continent the whole world witnessed the collapse of fascism in Greece, Portugal and Spain.

In Latin America, Cuba is the most striking example of struggle for freedom and democracy, which, despite designs of imperialism, attained mammoth successes in the construction of the continent's first socialist society.

All these victories, Romesh Chandra said, evoke hatred in imperialist circles, which are trying to launch a counter-offensive through giving support to the fascist regimes in Chile, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, other countries of Latin America. The peoples of these countries are waging difficult struggle for freedom, independence and social justice. All peoples of the world associate themselves with their struggle.

The struggle against fascism, for national independence and democracy is a component part of the struggle for peace, against the threat of a nuclear war, Romesh Chandra went on to say. The attempts of the U.S. militarist circles to escalate the arms race are the greatest danger for the cause of peace, he stressed. They took a dangerous road of building up new types of weapons. Development and production of the neutron bomb in the United States is a monstrous crime against mankind. Romesh Chandra called upon the participants in the conference to multiply their efforts in the struggle for prohibition of the neutron bomb.

In conclusion, the president of the World Peace Council expressed confidence that the continental conference of Latin American and Caribbean basin countries would outline new perspectives and objectives of the peoples' common struggle for peace, disarmament, social justice.

BOOK ON EUROPEAN SECURITY PRAISES SOCIALIST PEACE EFFORTS

LD300722Y Moscow TASS in English 0705 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 30, TASS--"The consistent peace policy of the Soviet Union and the other European socialist states has made possible an improvement of the political climate in the continent and has demonstrated for wide circles of European public to see that only socialism could show a constructive way towards resolving complex problems of European security," the newspaper PRAVDA writes.

A book by a team of scholars of the Soviet Union and a number of European socialist states headlined "Socialism and European Security", a review of which the newspaper has published today, deals with the aforementioned issues. The book published in Moscow was edited by noted Soviet economist Oleg Bogomolov.

The book on a wide range of issues of European international relations convincingly shows that detente in Europe has considerably strengthened peace and widened possibilities for a further development of all-round mutually-advantageous cooperation between states with different social systems.

"A decisive contribution to this cause, as the book shows, is made by the foreign policy initiatives of the socialist states," says the review.

'STRIKE FORCES' PROPOSED BY HAIG 'MENACE' DEVELOPING STATES

LD3023102Y Moscow TASS in English 2140 GMT 30 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, January 30 TASS--The "global strategy" promoted by General Haig poses a real menace for the developing countries, writes Mikhail Mikhaylov in the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

The author comments on the interview by the U.S. General Haig, supreme allied NATO forces commander in Europe, with NEWSWEEK magazine in which he advocated the creation of a "regional deterrent force" in order to stop events in Third World countries from developing in a direction undesirable for the West.

Mikhaylov writes that "Haig sees in his dreams the creation of NATO forces for military interference, which means invasion of the developing countries."

"NATO political bosses, like the leaders of the imperialist states in general," says the commentary, "are very worried over the mounting national-liberation struggle of the nations and the strengthening of the young independent countries. Following the collapse of the colonial system the imperialists are trying to use for their anti-people purposes the disputes and conflicts between individual developing states. This is borne out by the recent developments in the African Continent."

Neither Haig nor anyone else can turn back the wheel of history. Imperialism's colonial system has collapsed once and for all. "The 'gunboat policy' has outlived itself."

UNITED STATES

PONOMAREV DELEGATION VISITS NEW YORK, RETURNS TO USSR

Meeting With Businessmen

LD021326Y Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 2, TASS--The leadership of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council yesterday arranged a get-together with the visiting delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, headed by Boris Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Present were prominent United States businessmen, leaders of the National Association of Manufacturers, the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., and also big American companies. It was also attended by Anatoliy Dobrynin, the ambassador of the USSR to the United States, and Oleg Troyanovskiy, the permanent representative of the USSR at the United Nations.

The Soviet delegation was welcomed by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council and chairman of the board of directors of Pepsico, Donald Kendall. He said the United States businessmen were in favour of the further development of American-Soviet relations and the expansion of economic and commercial contacts, which promote the strengthening of mutual understanding between the peoples of the USSR and the USA.

The Soviet parliamentarians were also welcomed by the chairman of the board of directors and president of International Business Machines corporation, the biggest manufacturer of electronic computers in the country, F. Carey. He stressed the interest of the United States business community in improvement of American-Soviet relations and expressed the hope that, in spite of all difficulties, the volume of American-Soviet trade would increase in the interests of bigger cooperation between the two countries.

Boris Ponomarev said that the Soviet Union would continue advocating the expansion of Soviet-American commercial and economic relations on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. The Soviet Union, our leadership and personally Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, attach great importance to the development of Soviet-American economic relations, he said. The Soviet Union is consistently pursuing a firm course for the consolidation of peace throughout the world, the development of relations with all countries, including the United States, on a mutually-advantageous and equal basis. This accorded with the interests not only of our two countries but of all peoples.

The head of the delegation set forth the principled position of the Soviet Union on questions of safeguarding peace and international security, stressing that the USSR was doing its utmost to halt the arms race and was sincerely striving for the consolidation of peace. In conclusion of the meeting, Donald Kendall asked the head of the Soviet delegation to convey heartfelt greetings to Leonid Brezhnev, the entire Soviet leadership, from the representatives of the American business community.

On the same day, a reception for the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was held at the Permanent Mission of the United States at the United Nations.

Meeting With Gus Hall

LD030638Y Moscow TASS in English 0530 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 3, TASS--B.N. Ponomarev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU CC, met here with Gus Hall, general secretary of the Communist Party of the USA, and Henry Winston, the party's national chairman. Their conversation passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Visit Summarized

LD030858Y Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] New York, February 3, TASS--The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, led by Boris Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has left for home. The delegation stayed in the United States for ten days on an official visit at the invitation of the U.S. Congress.

The delegation included deputies of the USSR Supreme Soviet Georgiy Arbatov, Viktor Dovbysh, Georgiy Zhukov, Leonid Zamyatin, Nikolay Inozemtsev, Zoya Pukhova, Boris Stukalin, Aleksandr Chakovskiy, Lev Shapiro.

During the delegation's stay in Washington Boris Ponomarev was received by U.S. President James Carter. Questions of the state of Soviet-American relations and some other international problems were touched upon in the course of the talk. The Soviet delegation also had a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

In Washington there was an exchange of opinions between members of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet and members of Senate and the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress.

Head of the Soviet Delegation Boris Ponomarev set out the principled policy of the Soviet Union, aimed at consolidation and development of the process of relaxation of international tension and further progress in Soviet-American relations. Mutual satisfaction was expressed with the fact that contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the U.S. Congress, that began in 1974, are successfully developing.

The Soviet delegation made a tour of the United States that took it to Houston, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Detroit and New York.

In New York the members of the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet visited the United Nations' organization and had a talk with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, which passed in a friendly atmosphere. The members of the delegation also had a meeting with the leadership of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council, with prominent representatives of U.S. business circles present.

At the New York John Kennedy Airport the USSR Supreme Soviet's delegation was seen off by USSR Ambassador to the United States Anatoliy Dobrynin and the USSR's Permanent Representative at the United Nations Oleg Troyanovskiy.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1530 GMT on 2 February reports: "Summing up the results of the visit by the Soviet delegation to the United States, Comrade Ponomarev said that they had useful and necessary meetings. He pointed out that the Soviet Union is striving to build its policy toward the United States on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. Much depends, Comrade Ponomarev said, on how the words of U.S. politicians on the importance of detente will be strengthened by concrete actions."]

3 Feb Return to USSR

LD031050Y Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--A delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR headed by Boris Ponomarev, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, returned here from the United States today. The delegation paid an official visit to the United States on the invitation of the U.S. Congress.

'SKYLAB' LOSING ALTITUDE, OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAYS

LD021810Y Moscow TASS in English 1753 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 2 TASS--The U.S. "Skylab" space station, which is in near earth orbit, is gradually losing altitude and may fall on earth in an unforeseen place. An official statement to this effect was made by a spokesman for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The "Skylab" station was put into a near-earth orbit in 1973. It was originally planned that by the end of 1980 a spaceship will bring aboard the station an engine, by means of which NASA specialists hoped to put it into a higher orbit, where it would circle the earth up to one hundred years long, or decelerate the station so that it should enter the atmosphere and its burnt-down remains fall into the ocean.

But, as a NASA spokesman said, special orbital measurements of the station late last year have shown that it is losing altitude much faster than had been expected. As a NASA spokesman said, attempts are now being made to prevent the fall of the "Skylab" station on a populated locality and ensure its entry into the atmosphere along a steep trajectory so that its remains fall into the Indian or Pacific ocean.

SIZE OF DRAFT U.S. MILITARY BUDGET CRITICIZED

LD021109Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[From the international military political review by Maj Yu. Gavrilov, V. Berezin: "United States' Militarist Budget Growing"]

[Text] Millions of Americans greeted with undisguised disappointment the U.S. draft federal budget for fiscal 1979. And indeed this draft, which was sent to the U.S. Congress the other day, provides for an increase in total military expenditure to the record figure of $128.4 billion, with a virtural freeze, and even a reduction, in appropriations for urgent social needs. The draft budget is assessed as a "betrayal of several campaign promises" by the President, by the Weshington POST. The New York TIMES notes the document's lack of "serious new initiatives in the social sphere." "Too many resources are being given to the Pentagon, while the appropriations for creating jobs are inadequate," says T. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives. An authoritative public organization--the information center on military problems--called the increase in the Pentagon's resources "an extravagance." The center notes in a statement that "the real growth in military expenditure will exacerbate the problems of the high federal budget deficit, inflation and unemployment and will retard the rate of economic development."

The main emphasis in the U.S. military expenditure will be placed on the development and deployment of new systems of nuclear missile weapons. Almost $1.4 billion is allocated for cruise missile warheads alone.

Provision is also made for the development of such modern systems as the MX mobile missiles and Trident missile submarines. As for neutron bombs, these are not mentioned, but the following typical detail attracts attention: Military expenditures via the Department of Energy will be $2.8 billion. It is now known that this department allocated resource in the current fiscal year for the creation of the neutron weapon under the heading of "public works."

The fact that the development of the latest strategic weapons is regarded as paramount is confirmed by this statement in the New York TIMES: "The military will receive the lion's share of the additional appropriations for scientific research and experimental and design work." And indeed it is intended to spend on the order of $14 billion on such work for military purposes.

Conventional types of arms are not bypassed. Mass production of the new XM-1 tank is to begin. The Air Force plans to expand production of aircraft and helicopters capable of supporting infantry and armored units. Particular mention is made of A-1-, A-4 and F-16 aircraft and various types of helicopters.

According to the French newspaper LE FIGARO, in 1977 the number of American soldiers in West Europe and the Mediterranean increased by 18,500. Washington's new plans provide for a further 8,000 increase in the numbers of U.S. troops there.

The Pentagon is trying to substantiate the buildup of its military might on the Continent of Europe by the "necessity" of strengthening the North Atlantic bloc. On this subject the New York TIMES wrote: "When the defense budget is concentrated on NATO it does not arouse arguments, and such a budget will always be passed."

As always, the planned growth in military expenditure is accompanied in the United States by increased militarist propaganda. A new round of indoctrination of the population is beginning, the New York TIMES notes in this connection. The "arguments" of the indoctrination specialists are not new. It is still the same mythical "Soviet threat," the "U.S. lag behind the USSR" in terms of military might and so forth. Particularly zealous here is the notorious "Committee on the Present Danger," which consists, among others, of Generals Goodpaster and Lemnitzer, former NATO supreme allied commanders in Europe; General Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; former CIA Director Colby; and others. The zealous preachers of the buildup of the U.S. military machine have come as far as absurd assertions that "the world is already in essence in a prewar situation, before the start of a third world war."

The U.S. military-industrial complex and its advocates, by shouting for an increase in military expenditures and continuation of the dangerous arms race, are trying to wreck the positive process that is taking place in Soviet-American relations and to undermine international detente as a whole. Who is not aware that these attempts are fraught with serious consequences for the cause of universal peace and the security of the peoples?

DESPITE 'PROMISES,' U.S. TO INCREASE ARMS SALES ABROAD

LD021058Y Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports:

In breach of its high-sounding promises the United States continued increasing the sale of armaments to foreign states which pursue a policy pleasing to Washington.

As the U.S. Government announced on Wednesday, a total amount of military deliveries to America's clients will run at 13.2 billion dollars in the current 1978 fiscal year. This will be two billion dollars more than last year.

Speaking at a press conference in the White House Jessica Tuchman, spokesman of the U.S. National Security Council, pointed out that an increase in appropriations for the sale of weapons to NATO member-countries, to Japan, Australia and New Zealand are to range from 1.2 billion dollars to 1.5 billion dollars. Almost three and a half times more funds will be assigned for the delivery of various military equipment and services which will run at approximately three billion dollars.

To maintain if only a semblance of the desire to keep the promise, the government decided to somewhat curtail aid to the other states which receive American weapons. In the current fiscal year, a total of 8.6 billion dollars will be assigned for their needs as against 9.3 billion dollars in the 1977 fiscal year. Against the background of total huge scope of arms deliveries abroad, this curtailment was immediately viewed here as a purely publicity one which is of no serious practical importance.

Thus, it will in no way affect the interests of the leading purchasers of military hardware, Israel in the first place. According to official data, the Middle East now accounts for 80 per cent of U.S. military deliveries. Tel Aviv acquires newest American weapons to the tune of 1.5 billion dollars a year, on an average. Large batches of armaments are supplied to it free of charge.

The lack of any changes in the policy of military deliveries is noted by U.S. President James Carter himself. In a statement circulated by the White House the President had to state that the level of the sale of weapons abroad is high.

U.S. ROLE IN ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY PROBED

LD021334Y Moscow in English to North America 0030 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] According to the New York TIMES, back in 1974 the Central Intelligence Agency arrived at the conclusion that Israel was producing atomic bombs. Here is a commentary by our observer, Viktor Moskvin:

The five-page CIA report dated 4 September 1974 has been declassified. In the opinion of the New York TIMES it is tantamount to an official recognition of Israel as a nuclear power. In April 1977, Paul Leventhal, former member of the House of Representatives committee, spoke before a scientific conference in Salzburg, Austria. He made headlines, having stated that 200 tonnes of uranium, believed to be lost in 1968, had been hijacked by the Israeli Mossad intelligence agents. In November of that same year the ROLLING STONE magazine published a story about how Israel had made its nuclear weapons. It turned out that way back in 1965 Salman Shapiro used his top administrative position in the (?Numec) corporation to help Israel obtain enriched uranium. The corporation was investigated in 1965 and 1966. The investigators were perfectly aware of Shapiro's close ties with Israeli business circles. However, they failed to trace the destination of the uranium. The CIA and the FBI kept tabs on Shapiro, but nevertheless uranium continued to disappear from the (?Numec) plant in Pennsylvania.

In the late sixties there were a number of raids by unidentified terrorists on uranium-carrying trucks in Western Europe--France, for example. (?the) terrorists struck with such precision and their raids were so carefully worked out that it was obvious they had been tipped off in advance of the route of the truck, the number of guards, and other things. That's why the ROLLING STONE ventured a guess--that the so-called raids were a mere disguise for cooperation. Such an eventuality is not completely groundless, if you consider two more facts:

1. The Johnson administration ordered the investigation into the smuggling of uranium from United States territory stopped.

2. Later on the Ford administration decided against a public disclosure. Such a disclosure could make Israel realize that the United States did not approve of its nuclear program and that Washington might alter its plans of weapons shipments to Tel Aviv, but instead the United States continued to arm Israel with the most modern weapons.

Figuratively speaking, Israel had a rock; it needed a slingshot, and it got it. Many types of slingshots, in fact.

Tel Aviv has such means of nuclear weapon delivery as the F-4 fighter, the Lance missile, the F-15 fighter, which when refuelled can hit targets deep inside nonconfrontation Arab countries. Washington provided its client with laser-guided bombs and computers. Tel Aviv received knowhow and technology which it now uses in producing its own missiles and fighter bombers. And not only produce them for its own armed forces, it even sells them to foreign countries. Take, for instance, the Kfir fighters and the Gabriel naval missile.

It all sounds like Arthur Hailey--smuggling of uranium, terrorist raids, hijacking of a ship and (?modest) silence in Washington's high places. Only there's no happy end in sight. The Middle East has been for years the most explosive area with its four wars in 3 decades. It's the No 1 arms consumer in the so-called Third World; and instead of showing restraint to match its talk about peace Washington has turned Israel into a nuclear power and continues to build up its muscle.

As one of the cosponsors of the nonproliferation treaty, Washington has to shoulder full responsibility for what has happened, all the more so since Israel is known to maintain close military ties with South Africa. Incidentally, the New York TIMES lists South Africa among the potential nuclear weapons producers, together with a group of other countries; all of them are America's allies. I don't think it's coincidence. Washington has been pushing the arms race for years--in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

At present the Carter administration claims it's trying to talk some restraint and moderation into its allies, at least as far as nuclear weapons go, but it sets a bad example itself, developing new and still more sophisticated means of mass destruction. Its partners follow suit. Having built Israel into a nuclear power almost with its own hands, Washington will have a difficult time explaining to others why they can't do the same. It might turn out to be chain reaction, like the chain reaction that began the day in the Israeli reactors in the Negev desert, the reactors powered by uranium from Pennsylvania.

NEW U.S. 'WARNING' ON EUROCOMMUNISTS NOTED

LD030120Y Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Nikolay Gratsianov note: "New Interference"]

[Text] While indignation continues about the U.S. State Department declaration of its negative attitude toward possible participation by communists in West European governments, Washington has issued a new warning. On Tuesday, the under secretary of state for European affairs, Vest, declared in the House Committee for International Relations that state management could not be entrusted to communists. Vest's declaration shows once again that the United States continues its gross interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. This is especially true in Italy, where a very grave government crisis is under way and where the question of forming a government of democratic unity with the participation of all democratic parties, including communists, is on the agenda. The State Department persistently refuses to abandon the vicious and offensive practice of imposing political solutions which are to its advantage on its allies.

And this is not all. Pressure is also being exerted on Italy through financial and military channels. For instance, U.S. Senator Brooke some time ago hinted to the Italian leaders that the Senate Banking Committee could influence the decision of the IMF on financial aid to Italy, which it needs so badly. On their part, Washington's creatures in NATO, the commander of the armed forces of the Atlantic bloc, U.S. General Haig, and Secretary General Luns, are threatening to end Italy's access to NATO secrets if communists enter the government.

The U.S. interference in Italy's internal affairs is not only a sharp violation of the Helsinki agreements signed by Washington; it is also creating a precedent as regards other West European countries where the communists are constantly gaining in prestige and recognition among the masses. In this lies the main danger to free expression of the will of the West Europeans.

'EMERGENCY PROGRAM' NEEDED TO BUCK UP U.S. ECONOMY

LD021000Y Moscow TASS in English 0840 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

["Incurable Diseases"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 2, TASS--The TASS economics commentator, Ivan Ablamov, writes:

The latest actions by the United States administration indicate that it is seriously worried over the state of the American economy. Another instance of this is the convocation of a special White House conference on economic problems, called upon to search for prescriptions to cure the economic ailments of the United States.

The American press and specialists now agree that an emergency programme is needed to "buck up" the U.S. economy. One of such emergency steps, for instance, is the Humphrey-Hawkins bill Congress is now considering. A heated discussion has now flared up in the United States around this legislative initiative. Some people regard the bill as "going too far" and all but a manifestation of "creeping socialism", since it aims at strengthening state regulation in the economy.

Though the Humphrey-Hawkins draft is called "bill on full employment and balanced growth", its purposes are much more modest. Its original version, tabled in 1975, envisaged a reduction in unemployment to three per cent of the labor force by 1980. The current state and prospects of development of the American economy, however, are such that even this very modest figure had to be revised. The new version of the bill aims at a reduction of unemployment to four per cent of the labor force and even that. . . by 1983.

Can this aim be attained? Many American experts are doubtful. They estimate that this would call for an annual growth of the American economy by at least 6-6.5 per cent. In the past, the United States could never attain such a rate.

In his latest messages to Congress, President Jimmy Carter promised Americans that in subsequent years they could at best expect a 4.5-5 per cent economic growth.

More, American economists estimate that a reduction of unemployment to the level of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill would require big state appropriations which could lead to another flareup of inflation. This, in turn, would place in jeopardy implementation of the bill.

But even in the "ideal" case, if the bill is adopted and fully implemented the United Sates would still have 3.5-4 million jobless. Such a tremendous figure would hardly entitle anyone in the United States to speak of a solution to the problem of unemployment. And inflation will also be maintained, if not aggravated.

Thus even such a "radical" (in the American meaning) draft as the Humphrey-Hawkins bill is far from solving the two most acute socio-economic problems--unemployment and inflation.

AUTHORITIES TRY TO MINIMIZE 'KOREAN BRIBERY SCANDAL'

LD021218Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0917 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

["Corruption on Capitol Hill"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington--Having failed to mute the resounding scandal concerning the bribery of congressmen by South Korean agents, the U.S. authorities are now trying to reduce its political repercussions to the minimum. In protecting the "soiled" reputation of the country's supreme legislative organ, they are trying in every way to convince the public of their desire to insure "the triumph of justice" but are not forgetting to do all they can, on the quiet, to see that the matter is limited to the punishment of as few people as possible.

Representatives of the Department of Justice and Congress were sent to South Korea to try again to "force" South Korea to extradite Pak Ton-son. A resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives calling on Seoul to coooerate under the threat of cutting off American aid. In return for his testimony, Pak Ton-son was offered a complete "remission of sins"--all charges against him would be withdrawn.

As expected, these measures have brought results. Thomas O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, said Pak has agreed to come to the United States to testify--behind closed doors, of course. Pak has also given "useful" testimony to representatives of the Department of Justice in Seoul. Assistant Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti, who was in South Korea, hastened to explain, however, that Pak's new testimony gives grounds for calling to account only certain U.S. legislators.

Thus the impression has been created that the vast majority of the congressmen who received bribes from South Korea agents will get off "scot free." The investigation by a congressional committee does not endanger the bribe-takers--according to the Washington POST, only disciplinary measures for "unethical behavior" can be applied.

FARMERS AT WHITE HOUSE PROTEST 'POLICY OF MONOPOLIES'

LD272120Y Moscow TASS in English 1638 GMT 27 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Washington, January 27, TASS--TASS correspondent Vitaliy Gan reports:

American farmers came to the White House, the residence of the U.S. President, carrying posters: "Farmers are famishing!" "Stop the plunder!" They expressed their protest against the rapacious policy of agricultural monopolies. The demonstrators were trying in vain to meet the President in the hope that the U.S. administration [would] take measures to ensure fair purchase prices, but representatives of the White House said that they only hoped to arrange for such a meeting in the future.

The demonstration was an important component part of the national farmers' strike called in mid-December.

The official authorities recognise by word of mouth the critical situation of the farms, which are on the verge of ruining because of (?inflation and the onslaught) of big agricultural monopolies. But in action it refuses to take any steps to alleviate the plight of the farmers. As Agriculture Secretary R. Bergland said, he has neither means nor powers for it.

Such a stance of indifference has touched off a wave of indignation among the American farmers.

They declared their intention to carry on the struggle for the satisfaction of their legitimate demands. In 40 states the farmers taking part in the protest movement have decided to cut grain crop output by 50 per cent.

MONDALE 'ADMITS' CIVIL RIGHTS PROBLEMS MORE SERIOUS

LD312218Y Moscow TASS in English 2119 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Washington, January 31 TASS--Nothing is still being done in the United States to put an end to race discrimination. This is the main conclusion drawn in the report of the conference of the leaders of the civil rights movement published in connection with the opening of its annual congress.

Hope that the new U.S. administration would pay more attention to ensuring civil rights for the country's people have not been justified, said R. Brown, deputy executive director of the black National Urban League, addressing the congress. Moreover there are increasingly frequent attempts to deprive blacks of their gains. A new attack has been launched in the Senate against the desegregation of schools. The electoral reform bill that would have enabled millions of blacks to take part in elections, an opportunity which they are still denied, has been shelved.

The U.S. vice president, Walter Mondale, speaking at the congress, had to admit that the civil rights problems facing the U.S. are today in many ways more serious than in the past. A child born into a black family has only half the chance to finish college than a white child. A black has one and a half times greater chances to lose his job, and he will live six years less on average than a white. His wage would be half of that of a white, said Walter Mondale.

NO PEACE FOR ANTIRACIST STRUGGLERS, CHAVIS SAYS

LD011400Y Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 1 Feb 77 LD

[Text] New York, February 1 TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksey Voronin reports:

From a prison cell in McCain, North Carolina, the tireless fighter against racism, Ben Chavis, sent a letter to the presidium of the World Peace Council. Ben Chavis, the leader of the Wilmington ten, writes that only one conclusion can be made from what has happened to the Wilmington ten--that those who fight for changes in the U.S. society will be silenced, will be thrown into prisons and will be isolated from society in any way. Ben Chavis made a call for drawing the attention of the United Nations to the case of the Wilmington ten, who are languishing in North Carolina prisons.

There is no peace for the Wilmington ten, for millions of Americans who daily have to fight against racialism, poverty and the repressive laws in this country, says the message of the activist of the civil rights movement.

Over many years, the group led by Ben Chavis is kept in prison on a charge fabricated by the racialists. Seeking to victimise the civil rights fighters, the U.S. authorites bribed three "witnesses" whose testimonies were used for the frame-up. Though it was learnt about the frame-up after the "witnesses" withdrew what they had said, the North Carolina court did not see the need of revising the horrible sentences: The Wilmington ten were sentenced to the aggregate prison term of 282 years. Governor of North Carolina James Hunt did nothing to restore justice. Last week he refused to release the people who had been illegally condemned.

The destiny of the civil rights fighters who are kept in prison for their political views causes indignation of the U.S. public. Another round of protests was caused by the decision of the reactionary governor. The case of the Wilmington ten is a glaring example of hypocrisy in the United States in the sphere of civil rights, the newspapers DAILY WORLD wrote. The New York POST described the case of the Wilmington ten as a scandal.

VIRGINIA'S 'RACIST POLICY' NOT EXEPTION IN U.S.

LD011120Y Moscow TASS in English 0943 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Washington, February 1 TASS--The law on civil rights was adopted in the USA 14 years ago, but Negro students are still compelled to press through court for their right to get education. Negro representatives in Virginia demanded that the court should exert pressure upon the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, whose duties include implementation of a programme of racial desegregation in colleges. In Virginia there are 38 colleges but till now 70 percent of black students attend only two so-called "black" colleges.

The racist policy in Virginia is by no means an exception in the United States.

TENG HSIAO-PING TRIP TO NEPAL HINTS AT PRC INTERFERENCE

LD021504Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] After the visit to Burma, the vice prime minister of the Chinese People's Republic, Teng Hsiao-ping, plans, after a short interval, to go to Nepal. More details from our observer Boris (Petrov):

These visits attract attention because many observers maintain that Peking's relations with South Asian countries, including Nepal, are far from being normal. Mao's death gave rise in certain circles of Asia to hopes that the new leadership would give up the course that led to so many excesses in China's relations with its southern neighbors. To what extent can these hopes be realised?

Teng Hsiao-ping's trip alone provides some food for thought. During his stay in Burma he admitted, in an oblique way, that there exist disputed issues in Chinese-Burmese relations. As a matter of fact it would have been difficult to conceal them. In Rangoon, Teng Hsiao-ping assured Burma of China's friendship but supplemented this statement with calls to struggle against hegemonism. Thus the guest from China made it clear that the normalization of Chinese-Burmese relations depends on how Burma will accept Maoist theories. In other words, politicians in Peking have the message: If you want to better relations with China worsen relations with third countries.

Back in July 1976, China's prime minister, Hua Kuo-feng, speaking at a banquet in honor of Nepal's King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, said that China and Nepal belonged to the Third World and that is why China would support Nepal in its struggle for preserving independence in case of foreign aggression. In this connection the press and officials in Nepal noted that their country was an independent peaceful state that no one was threatening. It did not escape their attention that through its missions the HSINHUA agency tried to spread printed matter in Nepal directed against third countries, for example against India.

Probably Nepal's king had these and other actions of the Chinese in Nepal in mind when, during his visit to China, he said Nepal was consistently conducting a policy of peace, nonalinement, friendship and cooperation. We won't let, he said, our territory to be used for actions hostile to any nation and we expect the same from others. The latest events draw new confirmation of Peking's desire to spread its policy of opposing some countries to others, first of all to areas of South and Southeast Asia bordering with China. The Maoist leadership does everything to prevent the normalization of the South Asian subcontinent which got a new impetus of late. This can be seen from the results of the tour of Nepal, India and Pakistan by Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman. Of positive importance was also the recent visit to Nepal by India's Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The Indian side assured the Nepalese Government that India would gladly consider the proposal to turn Nepal into a zone of peace. As was said in Delhi, India would want the whole subcontinent to become a zone of peace.

The general world climate and the spreading of relaxation to Asia are favorable for realizing these plans. At the same time it is especially important to prevent any steps that would run counter to the development of such positive tendencies.

PEKING SEEKS TO AGGRAVATE EUROPEAN SITUATION THROUGH EEC TIES

LD030728Y Moscow TASS in English 0645 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--"Peking strives to use its ties with the EEC in order to oppose the countries of the West to the Soviet Union, to discredit the accords reached at the all-European conference in Helsinki, to aggravate the situation in the European Continent, to call for 'strengthening' of the NATO aggressive bloc," writes NEDELYA, the Sunday supplement to the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

The article "Peking-EEC: Contacts With an Aim" says that "Peking's persistent attempts at installing itself in the EEC are taken at a time when the Chinese leadership has invigorated to an unusual degree its hegemonic foreign policy line based on the nonsensical Maoist concept of 'inevitability of a third world war', and the whole of Peking's foreign policy is based on the striving to knock together some 'united front' of struggle against the USSR and the other countries of the socialist community. China's home life is subordinated to the slogan of 'preparations for war' and is characterised by total militarisation absorbing more than 40 percent of the country's budget. All this undoubtedly determines also Peking's trade and economic policy in the international arena.

"One of the main features of this line is that in its implementation the main emphasis is laid not so much on economic, as on political calculations reflecting Peking's interest in a strengthening of the military political integration of the Western countries and using the latter against the interests of the socialist community. It is through the 'Common Market' that Peking is developing contacts with those circles in Western Europe which oppose detente, is trying to influence the West European states in the spirit of its militaristic policy of instigation of war."

The weekly notes that China intends to purchase in Britain the vertical take-off fighter plane "Harrier". In so doing Peking is ready to place with the "Hawker Siddeley" firm a maximum order for 300 of these jet planes which, it must be noted, have already been purchased by the U.S. Corps of Marines. In France, visitors from Peking are sounding out the possibility of purchasing a large batch of "Mirage" fighters, modern anti-aricraft missiles, "Crotale" surface-to-air missiles and "Exocet" ship-to-ship missiles. A big contract is planned in West Germany of the Peking military with the "Messerschmitt-Belkow-Blohm" concern for the purchase of heavy helicopters and licences for their manufacture.

"Both in NATO and the EEC, the weekly notes, there are forces considering that by playing the 'Chinese card', they can thus attain their own selfish aims. Now that Peking has resumed its 'contacts' with an eye to the 'Common Market', it would be apt to recall that once--in 1974--it was precisely the EEC, which addressed to China a proposal on economic cooperation. On the other hand, the REUTER agency reports from Brussels that 'NATO will welcome any strengthening of China's defence capacity.' What can be said in this connection? Only one thing: The circles in the West, including the countries of the Common Market, [words indistinct] of fact ready to pay for Peking's anti-Soviet, antisocialist line and encourage its hegemonic ambitions, should bear in mind that anti-Sovietism which is so much to the liking of some people in the NATO and EEC headquarters, is far from being a guarantee from Peking's provocations against other, including capitalist states. As it is a country, whose leadership proclaims for everybody to hear the 'inevitability' of war!"

USSR, CZECHOSLOVAKIA SIGN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PACT

LD030236Y Moscow in Czech and Slovak to Czechoslovakia 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia signed an agreement in Moscow today on cooperation in the production of equipment for nuclear power stations. Among other things, Soviet experts will help to organize the manufacture of nuclear reactors in Czechoslovakia for other socialist countries. The USSR has signed cooperation agreements on the production of nuclear technology with all European CEMA member countries and with Yugoslavia. For example, at the USSR's order, Hungary manufactures electrotechnical equipment, Poland manufactures special fittings and Bulgaria develops technology for biological defense. With Soviet cooperation, these countries have built and are building nuclear power stations.

RUSAKOV RECEIVES BULGARIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP OFFICIAL

LD271535Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 25 January K.V. Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received Nacho Papazov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee Secretariat and chairman of the National Committee of Bulgarian-Soviet Friendship, who has arrived in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries and the Soviet-Bulgarian Friendship Society. D. Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR, took part in the conversation which passed in cordial and friendly atmosphere.

DEPUTY PREMIER ARKHIPOV CONFERS WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL

LD011619Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Jan 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received G. Ubiparip, member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council on 30 January.

J. Smole, Yugoslav ambassador to the USSR, joined in the talk which took place.

HUNGARIAN CC MEMBER BORBELY WRITES IN PRAVDA ABOUT PARTY CADRE POLICY

For the Moscow PRAVDA article by Sandor Borbely, member of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party Central Committee, on the attention paid by the party to cadre policy and its problems, see the Hungary section of the 2 Feburary Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

BRIEFS

CONSTRUCTION OF ORENBURG PIPELINE--The eighth coordination conference of government representatives of the countries participating in the construction of the Soyuz main gas pipeline, stretching from Orenburg to the Western Soviet border, ended in Cherkassy on 28 January. The conference discussed the results of implementing the integrated plan for the construction of the 2,750 kilometer main pipeline in 1977, worked out a program for construction and assembly work in 1978 and signed a corresponding protocol. Obkom First Secretary Lutak took part in the conference. [Text] [Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 29 Jan 78 AU]

DC STUBBORNNESS ON COMMUNIST ISSUE PROTRACTS ITALIAN CRISIS

LD021637Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent N. Prozhogin report: "Crisis Continues"]

[Text] Rome, 30 January--The Italian Government crisis is continuing. One of the leaders of the Christian Democratic Party [DC], G. Andreotti, who was instructed to from a government by the president of Italy, reported that today he will distribute a draft of the government program he prepared to the political parties which participated in talks held last week. After the parties have familiarized themselves with it, Andreotti will begin a second round of talks which, unlike the previous round, will concern only the representatives of the country's six main parties, including the Communist Party.

Economic problems lie at the base of the draft program. However, the main obstacle to resolving the government crisis remains the political problem connected with the stubborn refusal of the DC leadership to officially recognize the role and importance of the Communist Party in running the country's affairs.

On Sunday numerous demonstrations, meetings and gatherings took place throughout the country at which the participants of the just-concluded plenum of the Italian Communist Party Central Committee explained the decisions made there. These demonstrations vividly confirm that the working people's movement in support of the Communists' proposals to create a national unity government is developing in the country.

NOVOYE VREMYA VIEWS ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE, PCI PROBLEMS

LD021517Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 5, 27 Jan 78 pp 19-21 LD

[B. Ilin article: "A Testing Time"]

[Excerpts] A statement by the Italian Communist Party [PCI] about the need for PCI representation in the government provoked the resignation of Giulio Andreotti's Cabinet on 16 January. A third phase in Italy's political development since the parliamentary elections of 20 June 1976 has begun.

At present, while G. Andreotti, who has been nominated for the premiership, is holding talks about the formation of a new cabinet, there is reason for discussing the main problems which are giving an extraordinary tone to the situation in Italy.

The Spiral of Decline

The problem of the economic crisis should, of course, be cited as one of the most important problems. It is against this background that the positions of the leftwing forces and the DC are coming into conflict. The package of measures proposed by the communists have been dubbed "austerita" which means "stringent economy." It is directed against both patent manifestations of parasitism and wastefulness and their concealed forms. [paragraph continues]

The excessively inflated civil service apparatus (the number of "middle level public employees" has increased by 600,000 in 5 years, mainly--it is true--through an increase in the number of workers in the education system), the unwieldy system of social security, insurance and poverty aid, the unplanned policy of state spending (which is determined through pressure from one "pressure group" or another), and the absence of coordination kinds and amounts of remuneration for labor (the "wages jungle" as it is called in Italy). Only a consistent struggle against irrational expenditure of this kind, he communists believe, will make it possible to shift large sums of money away from the unproductive sphere into the productive sphere; from consumption to production--a condition without which the country will not be able to break free from the spiral of decline.

The DC's reaction is marked by extreme caution. The bureaucratic maze, the lush pastures of the social trusteeship system with their artful methods of joining one social group or another to the channels of state finance, and the "wages jungle"--all this is more than just a prop for the DC, it is its source of nutrition. The 30-year union of the DC apparatus with the state sector has given rise to a symbiosis which certain economists are calling a "party economy." Understandably, the "austerita" scalpel begins to tremble in the hands of the DC ministers as soon as it touches the vessels along which the power of the DC spreads to the local level, and back from which a stream of ballots flows to the DC.

The "Blacks" and the "Red-Blacks"

The second important problem, the maintenance of public order, is also unique.

Can public order in the country be defended? The communists and consistantly democratic forces believe it can. Diverse measures have been proposed by them--and these are enshrined in the July agreement--aimed at improving the social situation, isolating the terrorist underground, and enhancing the efficiency of the courts and the police.

One of the important measures, for instance, would be the complete demilitarization of the police and its transfer to the status of a civilian service with policemen having the right to freely join a trade union--this would insure for them the active support of the working people. Preparatory work to form such a trade union is being actively conducted: At the end of the year delegates representing approximately 85 percent of police personnel assembled in Rome and decided that their future organization would affiliate itself with the Federation of the Italian General Confederation of Labor, Italian Confederation of Workers' Syndicates and Italian Union of Labor.

But this development is frightening influential circles in the DC. Having originally been on the verge of agreeing to complete demilitarization and the free choice of a trade union, this party tried to "backpedal" at the last moment. In December, 19 million Italian workers staged a one-hour strike in support of democratic reform of the police. As can be seen, the salvation of public order in present-day Italy--just as much as the salvation of the economy--inevitably means renewal and resolute democratic change.

The Demand for Change

It is very significant that once again the organized working class is initiating these changes. In essence, the fate of the government was decided not on the eve of its resignation but a month earlier--by the 200,000-strong nationwide demonstration of metal-workers in Rome at the beginning of December. [paragraph continues]

The working class gave a forceful reminder that it does not intend to tolerate delaying tactics, equivocation and half-measures any longer. It is demanding proof that real changes are being made in policy, the economy and public morality. The metal-workers showed simultaneously that the working class stands firm in its defense of democratic order and rejects the intrigues of the provocateurs.

If we discuss the crux of the matter, the December demonstration hastened the fall of the Cabinet by reminding all Italian politicians again about an already familiar double truth: The solution of the country's chief problems is impossible without the support and active participation of the working class; and the PCI and the class trade unions constitute an inalienable section of the working class--its main part.

It is reasonable to assume that the PCI leadership is aware that the step toward the government benches, especially during the current crisis cannot be an easy one for the party to take. In addition to their ability to govern, the communists will also have to put the strength of their links with the masses, with the various sections of the working people, to the test. Many questions are arising in the grassroots party organizations where some of the communists, in the words of one of the PCI's local leaders, are not immediately coming to terms with the fact that their party "which has grown accustomed to criticizing and demanding, is moving over to the position of a party which is itself criticized and of which demands are made."

Understanding the PCI's policy with respect to the Christian Democrats also requires definite effort. While stepping up pressure on the DC, this policy is by no means pursuing the objective of uniting within the ruling party the moderate and militantly conservative factions, the healthy and corrupt elements, and the present and former leaders. "By consistently adhering to this policy," L'UNITA writes, "we are exerting pressure on the DC in order to channel in a positive direction the agonizing evolution which is taking place in that party."

Naturally, if the PCI were primarily concerned about its own party interests, this would perhaps presuppose postponing the advancing of demands for participation in the government. But once again, as has repeatedly been the case, the communists have put nationwide interests before and above narrow party interests.

PRAVDA REVIEWS POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC SCENE IN SPAIN

LD021647Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 78 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Chernyshev dispatch: "Spain Today"]

[Excerpt] Madrid, January--Changes have occurred in a relatively short time in Spain which a few years ago would have seemed simply inconceivable. Direct elections to parliament were held for the first time after a 40-year interval and these elections were, according to the widely held opinion in Spain, the most significant event of last year--a turning point in the country's political life. An amnesty for political prisoners, the legalization of political parties, including the Communist Party [PCE], the disbandment of the National Movement--the sole legal political organization under the Franco regime--and of the so-called "vertical trade unions," which served as a reliable prop for Francoism--these are only some of the important milestones on Spain's difficult path to the present day.

This has been a very difficult path. It was a struggle, a dogged struggle, reddened with the blood of those who fell and fanned with the banners of thousands of demonstrations and meetings during which the voice of the masses rang out firmly, calling for a break with the Francoist past. The Spanish people have created and are creating a new Spain on the ruins of the dictatorship.

This has been promoted to a definite degree by the realistic position of Adolfo Suarez' government and understanding on the part of the head of state, King Juan Carlos, of current demands and the country's situation. In a recent interview with the magazine CAMBIO-16, (his first interview with the Spanish press since ascending to the throne) the king declared that Spain has changed because the vast majority of the country's population desired profound changes. With the consent of all Spaniards and with their common efforts, Juan Carlos declared, we will succeed in overcoming difficulties and achieve for our country the desired goals--peace, freedom and progress.

In the country's political calendar the current year promises to be just as rich as last year. The most important political act will be the development and approval of a new constitution enshrining the changes which have taken place in the country and revealing prospects for further democracy. The draft constitution, which provides for a transition from Francoist dictatorship to a multiparty parliamentary system, has been published and the political parties are now analyzing and discussing the articles contained in it. All the political parties represented in the parliament agree that the draft can serve as a basis for discussion.

All leftwing parties, including the PCE, the Socialist Workers Party [PSOE] and the Popular Socialist Party [PSP], believe that the draft constitution is a great gain for the democratic forces. They note that a positive aspect of the constitution is, in particular, the proclamation of the rights and basic freedoms of citizens and also the fact that it will make definite economic transformations possible. At the same time they are also saying that it is essential to make substantial amendments to the articles in the draft constitution concerning relations between the various organs of power, the granting of autonomy to a number of provinces and regions, the granting of rights to trade unions, and a number of other issues.

It is thought that, in all, more than 100 different amendments will be submitted for discussion in parliament and this portends heated debates. After the draft constitution has been approved by parliament it will be voted upon in a general referendum.

Another important event will undoubtedly be the municipal elections--the holding of which at the earliest possible date is being persistently advocated by leftwing forces. The fact is that local power in the country still belongs to the same people who held this power in the past--frequently zealous Francoists who oppose in every way any steps toward democracy. Although the date for elections has still not been fixed, the election campaign has to all intents and purposes already begun. Special commissions and committees are being set up in the political parties for conducting the election campaign, tactics for the struggle are being devised, and candidates are being nominated.

In an effort to determine its prospects, the government party, the Union of the Democratic Center [UCD], has completed a public opinion survey which revealed that 24 percent of the electors questioned over the age of 21 declared themselves in favor of the UCD, about 6 percent for the rightwing Popular Alliance, and almost 40 percent for the leftwing parties; the PCE, PCOE and PSP.

It is difficult to say whether the results of the voting will confirm the figures obtained during the public opinion poll, but no one is in any doubt about one thing: The municipal elections will be of great significance not only for the renewal of local power in accordance with today's needs but will also, to a definite degree, reveal the correlation of political forces in the country which has evolved since last year's parliamentary elections.

Yet another election is attracting the attention of the Spanish public--the trade union elections. For the first time in 40 years workers are electing their representatives to the trade unions. The first results (the elections will last till mid-February) indicate that the vast majority of votes at enterprises are being received by candidates of the workers' commissions--the trade union association which earned the trust of the working class by its selfless struggle in the period of the Francoist dictatorship, and also the workers general union, which takes the same position as the PSOE. The elections--the very holding of which is a great victory for the Spanish working people--will, in the opinion of the workers commissions leadership, promote the role of the trade unions in Spanish society, the galvanization of the workers movement, and the strengthening of its ranks, and will be an important stage in the struggle for the working people's interests.

"We must not expect a miracle," Enrique Fuentes Quintana, second deputy prime minister for economic affairs, declared recently. He evaluated the current Spanish economic crisis as extremely serious. Industrial production, with the exception of a number of sectors, is largely stagnating, as is agriculture, where production increased last year by only 0.1 percent. The balance of payments deficit is reaching a dangerous level and the deficit in the foreign trade sphere last year exceeded 775 billion pesetas (about $11 billion). Inflation, which is hitting the pockets of the working people hard, amounted to 28 percent in 1977. The fact that the Spanish financial and industrial oligarchy, in reaction to the unstable situation in the country, is investing its capital abroad is provoking particular anxiety among the public. The flight of capital abroad has assumed such proportions that it has been dubbed a "capitalists' strike" in Spain.

Unemployment has become a veritable disaster for the country. According to trade union statistics, 1.3 million people are out of work. More than half the young people are youngsters who have recently completed their studies at school or who have been forced to abandon their studies in order to take their places in the long lines at the job centers.

At the beginning of January a jolly children's festival--the festival of the three magi--was held in Spain. Just before this festival the children wrote letters in which they put requests to the magi. Usually these letters (with their parents' assistance) reach their destination and on the morning of the festival the children find the toys that have taken their fancy by the fireplace.

In this connection one of the Madrid newspapers conducted a survey among well-known politicians. The question asked was, of course, in jest: What would they ask from the magi for this year. But the newspaper received absolutely serious answers. They included--the surmounting of the economic crisis, the ending of extremist acts of terrorism, a reduction in unemployment. These problems are so serious that, Spaniards are convinced, a magus would hardly manage to resolve them this year.

BASQUE SEPARATIST GROUPS RUN COUNTER TO SPANISH PUBLIC

LD022056Y Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2200 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The political parties of the basque country have approved a joint statement asking the Separatist Basque Nation and Liberty [ETA] movement to renounce terrorist acts. Our observer, Yuriy Konstantinov writes:

An important agreement in principle on the need to end extremist terrorism in the basque country was approved in the San Sebastian meeting. Organized violence has led to much bloodshed and claimed many unnecessary victims in Euzkadi. In urging terrorist actions, the leaders of the separatist organization say that for them the war is not over in Spain. The ETA leadership has not heeded the calls made by the democratic organizations which have come out in favor of a constructive dialog with the Adolfo Suarez government.

It is significant that dozens of parties and organizations, from the nationalists to the communists, should have welcomed the January decree, considering it to be an important and necessary measure to achieve the full authonomy of the basque country. They stated that only by means of talks, not by organized terrorism, could the painful legacy of the past be overcome; could peace, liberty and progress be achieved in Euzkadi.

The ETA responded with new terrorist acts which took the form of another clash with the police. Such clashes are welcomed by the bunker--from Blas Pinar to the commandos of the so-called Apostolic Association; from the killers of Christ the king to the orthodox Popular Alliance followers of Fraga Tribarne. Neo-Francoists of all shades are united in their aspiration to halt the democratic process in Spain by all possible means. For that reason, they are inciting ETA to intensify their campaign of terror in Euzkadi.

Political extremism is incompatible with the needs of the present time, with the progressive democratization of Spain, which is supported by the overwhelming majority of Spaniards. The joint statement of the political parties of the basque country is yet further proof of this.

INTELLIGENCE SCANDAL LEADS TO FRG MINISTER'S RESIGNATION

LD021048Y Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 02 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, February 2, TASS--FRG Defense Minister Georg Leber tendered his resignation to Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. This was a result of the political scandal which had flared up in Bonn in connection with exposure of illegal operations by the West German military counter-intelligence, which organized surveillance of individual citizens, specifically, through secret tapping of telephone conversations.

AS-SADAT FLIES TO U.S.; ISRAELI LEADERS CONTINUE HARD LINE

LD022022Y Moscow TASS in English 1945 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, February 2 TASS--The negotiations between the war ministers of Egypt and Israel, which resumed in Cairo two days ago, have been interrupted "in anticipation of the results of the meeting between President as-Sadat and the President of the United States". As-Sadat flew to the United States today, where he was invited by J. Carter to discuss the question of "speeding up the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations."

New York, February 2, TASS--On the eve of As-Sadat's departure for Washington Prime Minister Begin said that the withdrawal of Israeli troops to the international borders, which existed before the Israeli-Arab war of 1967, was out of the question.

The Israeli foreign minister, Dayan, again confirmed in the Knesset that Tel Aviv would continue the policy of developing the occupied Arab territories, expanding the network of military settlements there. As reported by the New York TIMES, Dayan denied that he promised J. Carter that Israel would refrain from setting up new settlements on the western bank of the Jordan River. This denial was made in connection with the U.S. President's statement at one of the recent press conferences, expressing satisfaction with the Israeli Government's "disapproval" of the creation of new settlements.

Speaking in the Israeli parliament, Dayan said: "I merely promised that the creation of new settlements during the peace negotiations with the Arabs would be effected only in accordance with the plans for the deployment of new military camps."

Dayan intends to visit the United States after As-Sadat's trip to Washington. The American press notes that the main purpose of the Israeli's minister's visit is to muster the omnipotent Zionist lobby in America to support Tel Aviv's expansionist designs.

No Dramatic Breakthroughs Anticipated

LD031016Y Moscow TASS in English 0954 GMT 3 Feb 78 LD

["A Dangerous and Fruitless Course"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 3, TASS--TASS commentator Nataliya Zinovyeva writes:

Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat is arriving in the USA today for talks with President James Carter. His visit follows yet another brief and obviously resultless meeting of the Egyptian-Israeli military committee. Way back, prior to As-Sadat's departure, American observers wrote that the Egyptian leadership counts on As-Sadat's visit to the USA in the hope that the White House will put pressure on Israel and make it take a pliant position.

The U.S. press, however, does not share As-Sadat's hopes. The Washington POST, for example, is stating that "no dramatic breakthroughs" are anticipated from As-Sadat's visit to Washington.

Having pushed Egypt and Israel on to separate talks, the United States together with them embarked on the road of backstage deals and "quiet diplomacy" in contravention of the existing universally-recognized mechanism--the Geneva Middle East peace conference. In recent weeks Cairo and Jerusalem became an arena of frantic activities of American emissaries. Israeli and Egyptian statesmen and experts made shuttle visits.

Diplomatic efforts have been now transferred to Washington. It is noteworthy that Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan timed his unscheduled emergence in New York for the moment As-Sadat's visit will end. His visit, which is being ostensibly undertaken for the purposes of getting funds from Zionist organizations, has a different aim in actual fact: Tel Aviv fears that As-Sadat may get ahead of Israel and secure some advantages from Washington.

As is clear from the strategems, Egypt and Israel assign the leading role in their "diplomatic activity" to the United States. In this connection one cannot but recall the accusations which were levelled by some organs of the U.S. press at the Soviet Union that the latter is preventing the United States from promoting a Middle East settlement. The way of concerted actions for the purposes of achieving a just all-embracing settlement was set out in the joint Soviet-U.S. statement on the Middle East dated October 2, 1977. This is an important and constructive document to the provisions of which the Soviet Union continues to adhere scrupulously.

This in no way can be said about the United States. Its actions in the Middle East are at variance with the Soviet-U.S. statement which explicitly proclaimed that a Middle East settlement must be all-embracing, covering all the sides concerned and all matters. Instead, Washington is in every way encouraging a separate course, one of the goals which is, incidentally, to undermine the Soviet Union's positions in the Middle East.

One can only add that the separate talks, in spite of the declarations of their participants and inspirers, produced nothing which could promote a political settlement in the Middle East in accordance with the principles formulated in the joint statement. The talks only put off a solution to the Middle East problem and are leading to a dangerous heightening of tensions in the region.

PDRY DELEGATION'S MOSCOW VISIT CONTINUES WITH TALKS, SPEECHES

Meets Kosygin, Agreement Signed

LD021710Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Aleksey Kosygin, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, prime minister of the PDRY, began talks in the Kremlin today. Taking part on the Soviet side were Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs; Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; and Ogarkov, Marshal of the Soviet Union, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and first deputy minister of defense of the USSR. Taking part on the PDRY side were other members of the PDRY Government delegation headed by Hasani.

During the talks, which took place in a warm, friendly atmosphere, there was a thorough exchange of views on questions of bilateral Soviet-PDRY relations in the political, economic and other spheres.

The sides stressed the mutual striving to further pursue the line of widening and strengthening friendship and all-round cooperation between the two countries, to promote in every way the process of relaxing international tension and to promote the success of the peoples' struggle to liquidate the remnants of colonialism and racialism and for universal peace and social progress.

An exchange of views also took place on topical international problems. Particular attention was paid to the current situation in the Near East, which has become acute as a result of the Egyptian-Israeli separate-deals policy and the actions of the imperialist forces supporting this policy.

In connection with the Near East situation, it was noted that a firm, all-embracing settlement, on the basis of the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, must be achieved immediately.

Questions on the situation in the region of the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea were also reviewed.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1750 GMT on 2 February adds the following paragraph: "On the same day an agreement was signed between the USSR Government and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on economic and technical cooperation. Present at the signing on the Soviet side were Comrades Kosygin, Gromyko, Mazurov and other officials, and on the South Yemeni side 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and members of the government delegation."]

Kosygin, Hasani Luncheon Speeches

LD030015Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The Soviet Government today gave a luncheon at the Kremlin in honor of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani, member of the Political Bureau of the Unified Political Organization-National Front [UPONF] and PDRY prime minister, who was accompanied by members of the PDRY Government delegation.

On the Soviet side the luncheon was attended by Kosygin, Gromyko, Mazurov, Ustinov, deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers, ministers and state officials and other officials.

Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, delivered a speech at the luncheon. He said that Soviet-PDRY relations are presently witnessing a great event: We are welcoming and greeting here in Moscow the head of the PDRY Government and other PDRY state and party officials. In your person, honorable comrades, we greet the PDRY people who cherish freedom. We express our esteem for the courage and steadfastness the PDRY people are demonstrating on the path of independence and progress. We extend our hearty greetings to you on behalf of Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

For 10 years, Kosygin said, you have been traversing this path. Throughout this period the relations of friendship and cooperation which began immediately after the proclamation of the PDRY's independence have been developing fruitfully.

Kosygin said that people attain national independence under varying historical conditions and build their new lives under dissimilar conditions. But in their struggle for independence and social and economic betterment, they have much in common, including their overwhelming, deep-rooted desire to eliminate the last vestiges of the dark days of imperialism.

However, their progress is impeded by political differences, economic subordination and regimes subservient to international monopolies and their own poorly-developed production forces. Their task includes not only banishing the past but also new building and pioneering, and it therefore demands tremendous, persistent effort. Because of all this, and for the sake of current endeavors, efforts must be exerted not only by individuals or selected groups but by all working people, who should unite, convinced of the success of the work begun.

The PDRY people are marching along this path with the peoples of other Arab countries which have risen independently to achieve excellence in all aspects of their lives. This tremendous, logical operation cannot be underestimated. The best proof of this is the entire history of the liberation struggle in the Arab East and the abundant experience of the peoples of this large area which extends from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic.

As we talk about this today, we must not forget the late prominent leader of the national liberation movement Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, who played a major role in consolidating the people's national awareness and intensifying their determination to become the absolute masters of their destinies.

Aleksey Kosygin said: We recently respectfully celebrated the 60th birthday of this man. Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir was a great patriot who never entertained the thought of capitulation. He was a staunch fighter against aggression. He fully understood and highly appreciated the importance of Arab unity and the role of cooperation with the socialist countries in the people's struggle for independence and national dignity and for freedom and social progress.

Aleksey Kosygin added that the forces and resources of many Arab countries, which are extremely essential for peaceful building, and their growing material and spiritual potentials are being wasted on checking the danger if war and thwarting the designs of imperialism and reaction. The people of the PDRY know this from their own experience. They patiently endure the ordeals that have befallen them and are undaunted by the struggle, because it is for a just cause and is led by the vanguard of the PDRY working class, the UPONF.

Kosygin said that Soviet people highly admire the progressive nature of the political, social and economic changes taking place in the PDRY under the leadership of the National Front. These changes are being carried out for the good of the working masses and serve the cause of bolstering the country's national independence, the development of its economy and the raising of its standard of living. Socialist orientation is evident in the realization of economic reforms, the nationalization of foreign capital and the laying down of the foundation for national economic development. It is a course for which the people of the PDRY have opted.

All this is of great importance to the mutual support of the people marching along the path of peace and progress.

In recent years many things have been achieved that have made cooperation between the USSR and the PDRY richer in essence and more [word indistinct].

For our part, we are prepared to continue along this course and to bolster understanding and confidence between the two countries and to raise the level of relations between us. This meets the interest of the people of the USSR and the PDRY and the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Aleksey Kosygin added: In the present world situation, there is no wider program for constructive cooperation than the program of peace.

The bolstering of peace and the development of equal international cooperation are the principal course which, if followed, could lead to the solution of persistent international problems on a just and democratic basis.

This naturally applies to the settlement of the situaton in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa. To put out the flames of the conflict in these two areas there must be strict adherence to the basic principles of international relations: sovereignty, inviolability of borders and territorial integrity and mutual renunciation of the use of force. Most important, it is essential to grant the people their rights and to respect their interests which were violated by the aggressors infringement of these principles.

Aleksey Kosygin said: We do not conceal our position toward the attempts of some circles in the Middle East and outside this area to replace a comprehensive settlement by separate deals. If there were some who [words indistinct], this is apparently because their consciences and intentions are unclear.

Aleksey Kosygin affirmed that the USSR wants a peaceful settlement in the Middle East which would take into consideration the just rights of all the countries concerned. We do not close the door to convening the Geneva conference, and we stand for the resumption of the conference on conditions that would insure an all-embracing settlement without making it a cover for separate deals and would guarantee the participation of the PLO in this conference with full rights. We are confident that the cause of peace, justice and progress will triumph in the Arab east as well.

Kosygin saluted the deep understanding, friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and the PDRY and the UPONF. He also saluted Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani and all friends in the PDRY.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani made a speech at the luncheon in reply to Kosygin's speech. On behalf of the delegation accompanying him and personally he expressed great thanks for the warm hospitality and welcome they had received since they arrived in the Soviet Union.

He thanked Comrade Kosygin for his cordial words about bilateral relations which reflect the agreement of both sides on international issues, the PDRY's appraisal of recent world events and the two countries' firm desire to ease world tension and for security, peace and social progress of peoples.

All the countries of the world and all progressive people, including our PDRY people, he said, have recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of the workers' revolution, the Great October Socialist Revolution. It is extremely natural for progressive people to celebrate this anniversary, an important occasion for the present and coming generation of workers.

The Great October Socialist Revolution and the Soviet people led by the great party of Lenin have rendered services that cannot be doubted and cannot be erased from world history. The Great October Socialist Revolution shook the old world and inspired the people to struggle for complete liberation. It led the people to the path of comradeship in struggle and socialist scientific ideology, which leads to the triumph of a new society free from all forms of exploitation.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said that the USSR has become a decisive factor in routing fascism and the fascist regimes and the triumph of socialism in a number of European countries. It also played a decisive role when it offered aid to the national liberation movements and the national struggle of colonial peoples and firmly supported their new independent states, including the PDRY.

He expressed utmost appreciation and gratitude for the noble support and aid the USSR people offered to the people of Yemen at the start of their revolution against imperialism and for the triumph of the forces of liberation, progress and peace throughout the world and the establishment of a world socialist system.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said that it is a fact that imperialism never stops its traditional aggressive policy and continues to work to return the African Continent to the days of the cold war and to strike at international detente, peaceful coexistence and efforts for peace in Europe which the USSR and other socialist countries demand.

In our opinion the peace program adopted at the 24th CPSU Congress and the Soviet proposals on limiting strategic arms and reducing forces in the most sensitive areas of Europe are wise and realistic. These proposals, together with the decisions of the Helsinki conference, will help promote European security and strengthen the trend toward easing military tension in addition to the relaxation of political tension.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said that the situation in the Middle East has become further complicated and aggravated following the disgraceful and humiliating visit of the Egyptian president to occupied Jerusalem and his meetings with the Zionist enemy--a visit which will only end in defeat and has harmed Arab solidarity and the unity of the Arab people.

Like you, we feel that there can be no talk of peace in the Middle East without Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. There can be no peace unless the core of the crisis is solved: the granting of legitimate rights to the Palestinian people led by the PLO, including their right to set up their own national independent state.

Meanwhile, we feel that any discussion of the causes of peace in the Middle East under the aegis of the U.S. White House and without the participation of the USSR, the friend of the Arab people in their struggle for freedom and social progress, are doomed to fail. This was proven by the recent events in the Middle East.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said: Permit me here to express our deep appreciation for the policy of the USSR, which aims at helping the Arab peoples in their struggle against the hostile forces of imperialism and Zionism.

The situation in the Horn of Africa, he said, is still developing on lines that threaten the peace of this area and the national sovereignty of its peoples. International imperialism and the most aggressive quarters are trying to fan war between two neighbors: socialist Ethiopia and Somalia. According to recently received reports, U.S. imperialism has embarked on a plan for military intervention in the Middle East and the Arab Gulf. The situation here will become more complicated in the futute.

The PDRY, as one of the countries of this area, fully supports the security and prosperity of the Horn of Africa and exerts all efforts to safeguard this area from tension and U.S. intervention, so that mutual cooperation and benefit and peaceful coexistence will flourish for the good of the people and for their future. For this reason, we have always urged the resolution of the dispute in the Horn of Africa on the basis of democratic dialog and peaceful means which take into consideration national sovereignty and independent social development.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said: We have always called for the removal of the military bases in the Indian Ocean, especially the military base on Diego Garcia. This is a precondition for any discussion of stability in the Indian Ocean and of the cooperation of the people of that region.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said that friendship and cooperation between the PDRY and the USSR have come a long way since our people attained independence 10 years ago. I can say that we have laid down a firm basis for the further development of friendship between our two parties, our two peoples and our two governments.

The workers of our country fully appreciate this friendship and the sincere and honest aid Soviet workers give them in their struggle for national independence and social progress. They regard this aid as active support for the international proletariat given by the leadership fo the CPSU and the Soviet Government and people.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said: We in the PDRY are on the threshold of new changes which should strengthen our progressive regime. For example, shortly we will complete the formation of a new type of vanguard party which will lead the revolutionary operation on the basis of scientific socialism, and the participation of the masses in running state affairs will be increased through an elected people's supreme council.

In the area of national economic development the second 5-year plan will be drawn up. We are confident that our friendship will constantly develop during these changes for the good of our two peoples and two countries. Our visit to the USSR is closely linked with common efforts to bolster friendship and cooperation between our two parties and peoples.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani raised a toast to Soviet-Yemeni friendship, to successful implementation of the resolutions of the 25th CPSU Congress, to the successful preparation for the formation of the vanguard party in the PDRY and to the good health of Comrades Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin and all those present.

The speeches of Kosygin and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani were met with applause. The luncheon took place in a cordial atmosphere.

Visits Lenin Mausoleum

LD021056Y Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 2, TASS--'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the National Front and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, today called at the Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath there. By a minute's silence he honoured the memory of the founder of the first socialist state in the world and leader of the world proletariat.

Another wreath was laid at the unknown soldier's tomb near the Kremlin wall. The guest honoured the memory of the Soviet soldiers, who had laid down their lives in the struggle against fascism, for the sake of lasting peace and happiness for the peoples.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani was accompanied by the members of the government delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The guest was accompanied by Ivan Arkhipov, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Georgiy Kornienko, first deputy foreign minister of the USSR and other officials.

Skachkov Receives PDRY Minister

LD021252Y Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 2 Feb 78 PD

[Text] Moscow, February 2 TASS--Semen Skachkov, chaifman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, had a meeting with Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas member of the Central Committee of the United Political Organisation-National Front, PDRY minister of construction, here on Wednesday. They considered matters of the further development of Soviet-Yemeni economic and technical cooperation.

ALGIERS ARAB-PLO SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON ARAB SOLIDARITY OPENS

LD021700Y Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, February 2 TASS--TASS correspondents Igor Myakishev and Aleksandr Bolmatov report:

A conference of Arab head of state and members of the leadership of a number of Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization opened in Algeria's capital today. It is attended by Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of Libya 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Algeria's President Houari Boumediene, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization--National Front of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat.

The agenda of the conference was prepared at the meeting of foreign ministers of these states and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, held here. On the agenda is, specifically, the discussion of various aspects of the situation in the Arab world that arose as a result of Egyptian-Israeli separate negotiations.

The meeting in Algiers centers on questions of consolidation of inter-Arab solidarity, consolidation of the Arab forces opposing the policy of Egypt's President as-Sadat, consolidation of the ranks of the Palestinian resistance movement and giving it all-round support.

As is noted by the local press, the participants in the conference attach great significance to coordination of actions of progressive Arab states and adoption of concrete measures in implementing the decisions of the Tripoli conference, which is known to have declared against separate deals with the Israeli aggressor. A programme of joint actions is planned to be drawn up. It will be a political platform for consolidation of the united Arab front of struggle against conspiracies of imperialism, reaction and Zionism in the Middle East. In the opinion of the participants in the meeting, other forces of the Arab world can join the front.

A consistent and principled stand of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in questions of the Middle East settlement is emphasised in Algerian press commentaries devoted to the work of the conference. The recent visit of Algeria's President Houari Boumediene to Moscow, the APS writes, reaffirmed once again the Soviet Union's invariable and resolute support of the Arab peoples' just cause.

The meeting is held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding between its participants, who express confidence that it will make an important positive contribution to stronger unity of the ranks of the Arabs in their struggle against imperialist-Zionist plans.

CONSERVATIVE LEBANESE FORCES UNITE, EXPAND COMBAT OPERATIONS

LD021536Y Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Anatoliy Borisov reports:

The Lebanese public displays serious concern over the present developments in the country. There are continued armed clashes in the south of the country, more and more cases of kidnapping are reported from Beirut and other cities, and there have been reports of explosions and other provocative acts.

Local observers believe that a marked worsening of the situation in the country is due first of all to the fact that certain forces in Lebanon deliberately aggravate tension not only in the south but also in other districts of the country. There is a feeling of apprehension over the fact that the conservative forces, united within the "Lebanese Front", are trying to reorganize their ranks in order to create a military and politically strong grouping that could actively influence the country's political life. Instead of beginning a political dialogue with other Lebanese parties and organizations--as is suggested by the national patriotic forces--"the Lebanese Front" places reliance on armed force and is furiously campaigning against Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Thus, the newly elected Chairman of the "Lebanese Front" K. Chamoun continues asserting that the Palestinians are allegedly the main obstacle on the way to stability and normalization in Lebanon.

It should also be noted that the situation in the south, tense as it is, has considerably deteriorated over the last week. The conservative forces are expanding the area of their combat operations. They began using again heavy guns and tanks. In the last two nights, the positions of the national patriotic forces and the Palestine resistance movement in the areas of An-Nabatiyah, Balat, Marj U yun and Al Khiyam came under heavy artillery fire from the conservative forces which were supported by Israeli artillery. Israeli aircraft continue making reconnaissance overflights of the south Lebanese districts while Israeli naval launches patrol territorial waters in the area of the port of Tyre. There have also been cases when Israeli Air Force planes flew over Beirut.

It is believed in local political circles that Israel is preparing in earnest for a major armed provocation in the south of Lebanon against the Palestine resistance movement and the national patriotic forces and is waiting only for a suitable moment to begin an open aggression against south Lebanese districts.

OMAN COLLABORATING WITH U.S. IN ATTEMPTS TO GAIN GULF BASES

LD292128Y Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 29 Jan 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The sultanate of Oman has massed its (?forces) along its borders with Ras al-Khaimah, a UAE member-state. Official circles in Muscat allege that these military moves are a result of a border dispute between the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, and Ras al-Khaimah in particular. However, the reason that Sultan Qabus is pressuring this emirate, by implementing the orders of his imperialist protectors, is [word indistinct] of border disputes.

For a long time the territories of the UAE have been coveted by military circles in the Western imperialist states, especially in America. The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH once pointed out that the United States had officially asked to lease two islands from the UAE in order to construct war bases and conduct military maneuvers there. That was at a time when the U.S. Defense Department representatives and American officials were threatening, in official declarations, to send American paratroops to the gulf region to seize the oil fields of those states which refused to submit to the pressure of the oil monopolies.

For this reason, it was natural that officials of the UAE should reject this American request. However the U.S. Defense Department has not abandoned its attempts to build a military base on UAE territory. It is particularly interested in Ras-al-Khaimah, which has the best view of the shores of the gulf and is situated near the strategic Strait of Hormuz which links the Arab Gulf with the Indian Ocean.

The Arab press reports that America is still attempting to lease land from Ras al-Khaimah for a military base. All means are employed for this purpose, including the carrot-and-stick tactic, promises of financial assistance and security guarantees to the emir of Ras al-Khaimah.

The reason for this U.S. insistence is very clear: It is due to the eagerness of America military circles to gain control over the Strait of Hormuz, through America's CENTO allies and the hireling Omani regime; and it is also due to the desire to strengthen effective American military presence in this region.

AFP said that the U.S. Defense Department had organized a reconnaissance flight over the Strait of Hormuz for a group of American Congressmen who were rather doubtful about the need to finance the department's Arab Gulf projects and who wanted to be convinced of the strategic importance of this gate to the Arab Gulf, through which some 80 percent of the world's oil exports are carried. However it seems that these attempts of the U.S. Defense Department have been unsuccessful inasmuch as America has recently asked the Sultanate of Oman for help. This prompted the paper FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH to say: The recent developments along the borders of Ras al-Khaimah have shed more light on the reactionary role of Oman, where Sultan Qabus serves the interests of oil monopolies in return for their assistance in his struggle against the national liberation revolution in Oman.

PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani has also exposed the role of the Omani hireling as an instrument of American interests. He said: The military bases on the territory of the Sultanate of Oman are a source of permanent concern for our people and all the peoples of the gulf and the Arab Peninsula, who are now confronted with continuous provocations by CENTO jets. The case of the Phantom jet shot down by our forces was the latest evidence of these provocations. We hope, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad Hasani said, that the people of the world will side with us in our demands that foreign forces be evacuated from Oman.

FULLER REPORT ON CYPRUS PRESIDENT, MAKARIOS' POLICY

LD021004Y Moscow TASS in English 0810 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 2 TASS--Under the heading "The Problem of Cyprus Awaits Its Just Solution" the newspaper PRAVDA publishes an interview given by the President of Cyprus Spiros Kiprianou, to the paper's correspondent in Nicosia, Vladislav Drobkov.

The Government of Cyprus will firmly and undeviatingly follow the policy of non-alignment that was proclaimed by the late President Makarios from the moment of the establishment of the republic, stated the president of Cyprus.

Cyprus strives for the development of friendship with all countries and determines its position on international problems on the basis of principles in which we believe, the president went on. We firmly adhere to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of all countries and, naturally, want this principle to be applied to Cyprus as well. We form our policy in the international arena proceeding from objective criteria and moral principles lying at the base of the foreign policy of the Republic of Cyprus from the moment of its proclamation and in accordance with the United Nations Charter and resolutions.

Relations of Cyprus with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are steadily developing since the winning of independence by our state, Spiros Kiprianou went on. The USSR and other socialist countries ensure firm and constant support for Cyprus in the United Nations in the interests of the cause of freedom and justice.

They supported all the resolutions determining the framework of a just solution of the Cyprus problem. The government of the republic welcomed the Soviet Union's initiative directed at the convocation of an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to study international aspects of this problem. Despite difficulties, we continue to support this proposal. We are also developing close relations in the economic, trade and cultural fields with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Touching on the present situation in the world the president pointed out a number of changes that occurred in the international arena in recent years and which are a result of the policy of relaxation of tension. Cyprus continues to support all efforts and measures to consolidate detente. The Republic of Cyprus is a small country, Spiros Kiprianou said, and its political course cannot exert a considerable influence on international affairs. Yet, being a participant in the non-alignment movement and a member of the United Nations Organization, Cyprus strives to make its modest contribution to this cause.

The efforts made over a period of many years to improve international relations and consolidate detente have found their most important expression in the adoption of the final act of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation. This resulted in the creation of a "code of behavior" in international affairs which, given universal observance, can render a great service to the cause of security and peace in the whole world. Cyprus is a vivid example of this, and its problem is one of the serious international problems.

There is no doubt that relations between the great powers have on the whole improved and there is more mutual understanding, especially as compared to the cold war period, the president noted. If we want detente to be further developed, security and peace strengthened, we must solve as quickly as possible the most acute international problems and this, quite obviously, can be accomplished only in conditions of observance of the United Nations resolutions and the principles of the final act.

The solution of international problems will make a big contribution to the further improvement of East-West relations and this, in turn, would serve the cause of easing tension and lessening the probability of the outbreak of a large-scale armed conflict and also eliminate a number of major causes generating the arms race.

The president of Cyprus condemned plans of producing and deploying new types of inhuman weapons of mass annihilation, first of all the neutron bomb. The attitude of the Cyprus Government to the development and deployment of such weapons has always been negative, and the government invariably adheres to this position in the United Nations. We are firmly convinced, Spiros Kiprianou said, that disputes should be solved by peaceful means and that the so-called "balance of fear" can only lead to a world conflagration. Besides, the huge sums of money spent by the great powers on the development of new, more advanced types of weapons of mass destruction could be used for the satisfaction of mankind's most pressing needs, especially the needs of the less developed countries. Of the greatest urgency now is the necessity to remove the obstacles standing in the way of the attainment of agreement by the United States and the USSR on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons.

Principles of a just and stable solution of the Cyprus problem are contained in relevant United Nations resolutions, Spiros Kiprianou said. Apart from everything, these resolutions call for an ending of foreign interference, the withdrawal of foreign troops from Cyprus and the return of refugees to their homes in conditions of security. There also exist definite principles to whose implementation we attach substantial importance. These are principles of free choice of place of residence, freedom to travel and the right to own property for all citizens. Speaking in general, I would say that the solution of the Cyprus problem should protect the rights and interests of the whole people of Cyprus and ensure the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and policy of non-alignment of the republic. We have agreed to the proposal concerning the federation, but this must be a true federation and not a confederation.

Accords on the territorial and constitutional aspects must ensure the unity of the country and the inalienable rights of its citizens. In addition to this it would be necessary to have extensive international guarantees with the participation of the United Nations Organization.

The president spoke highly of the broad movement of solidarity in the world with the struggle of Cypriots. This movement, the president noted, is an important factor in our efforts to achieve a just solution of the Cyprus problem, to influence the policy of individual governments in the interests of a Cyprus settlement. On our part, Spiros Kiprianou said in conclusion, we intend to envigorate our efforts to extensively familiarize world public opinion with our position and, naturally, will do everything possible to make maximum use of the international movement of solidarity with Cyprus.

CONTINUING MATERIAL ON HORN OF AFRICA CONFLICT

Film on Western Arms

LD021422Y Moscow TASS in English 1353 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, February 2, TASS--The national television of Ethiopia has shown in the news programme documentary newsreel sequences shot in the eastern front after a successful counteroffensive recently launched by armed forces and people's militia units of Ethiopia in the area of the town of Harar and Jijiga. Many officers and men were taken prisoner and big quantities of military equipment was captured in the course of the fighting against the Somalian troops that intruded into Ethiopia's territory.

The testimony of officers and men taken prisoner and also the captured arms irrefutably prove that the countries, members of the NATO aggressive bloc, use Somalia in their plans of undisguised interference into affairs of states in the area of the Horn of Africa so as to unleash an armed conflict and internationalize it.

The film, made by Ethiopian cameramen, shows captured American "M-14" and "M-16" rifles, 160 mm Italian-made mortars, NATO's anti-tank guns, machine-guns and communication means.

The mass deliveries of NATO arms to Somalia, which unleashed an aggressive war against Ethiopia, said a narrator of Ethiopian television, testifies to gross interference of Western powers into the armed conflict in the Horn of Africa. He said that imperialist Western circles set the aim to stifle the revolution in Ethiopia and to recarve the map of Africa. NATO's aggressive plans have the aim to undermine the sovereignty of African states and the national liberation movement of the peoples of the continent.

West's 'Intrigues'

LD021035Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[From the Maj Yu. Gavrilov, V. Berezin international military-political review: "Flame of Conflict in the Horn of Africa"]

[Text] News from the region of northeast Africa known as the Horn of Africa has for a long time now resembled military dispatches. The conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia has become virtually a war, brought about by Somalia's territorial claims and aggression against the neighboring state. The following picture emerges from reports in the foreign press in recent months. Ethiopian troops and detachments of the "people's militia" are battling detachments of separatists and regular Somali troops who have invaded Ethiopian territory. The Somali troops are using tanks, heavy artillery and jet aircraft. Combat actions embrace the northeast and southeast part of Ethiopia: the desert area of Ogaden and several provinces. The zone of the military operations embraces the regions of the Ethiopian cities of Jijiga, Harar and Dire Dawa and also the strategic communications linking Addis Ababa with Djibouti.

The situation which has emerged in the Horn of Africa region as a result of Somalia's aggression is arousing serious concern in the world. The dangerous hotbed of tension which has arisen here is fraught with serious consequence of a further exacerbation of the situation throughout Africa and with complication of the international situation as a whole.

In spite of persistent efforts by Ethiopia itself, the OAU, the Soviet Union and other states advocating a political settlement of the conflict, the hotbed of tension in the Horn of Africa has still not been eliminated. What is the reason for this?

The African press indicates in this connection that the conflict is objectively playing into the hands of the forces of international imperialism and reaction, which would like to reverse the development of developing countries. Here imperialist circles are pursuing selfish military and political goals. The Mozambique newspaper NOTICIAS DA BEIRA formulated them thus: As far as possible to exacerbate the situation between the two countries, and by taking advantage of this to establish control of the Horn of Africa, which in NATO circles is considered an important strategic region. Hence, the newspaper went on to say, these circles could jeopardize the national liberation movement throughout Africa and "neutralize" states whose political course does not suit them.

The interest of imperialist forces in establishing control in this region is also linked by observers with their attempts to knock together under their aegis a military bloc of states obedient to them in the Red Sea basin, and also with the Pentagon's dangerous plans connected with military expansion in the Indian Ocean. In a word, the position of those with an interest in fueling the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia is fully inscribed in the general strategy of the imperialist states, which, as the Beirut newspaper AN-NIDA wrote, "are more than ever beginning to resort to encouraging local wars and, so to speak, local military interference to strike blows against the liberation movement in Africa and throughout the world."

In an attempt to mask their position the enemies of free Africa are clearly trying to shift the blame for the exacerbation of the situation in the Horn of Africa. Western information organs seize the absurd fabrications of Somali officials about an "invasion" of Somalia allegedly being prepared by Ethiopia and Warsaw Pact states. The NATO countries' press bristles with hypocritical "sympathy" for Somalia, whose troops have encroached on the territory of a neighboring sovereign state. The fabrications, however, cannot hide the facts--which have become common property--to the effect that precisely those Western "peacemakers" calling verbally for a settlement of the conflict are, together with Saudi Arabia and other reactionary Arab regimes, giving the aggressor secret and open financial and material support. The press has already reported deliveries of weapons to Somalia through "third countries."

The loud promises of Western officials "not to fan the flames of the conflict" could only be welcomed; however, it is difficult to match them with practical actions. It is known that at the meeting in Washington the other day representatives of five NATO countries--the United States, Britain, Italy, the FRG and France--the question of all-round support for Somalia, including the supply of arms, was discussed. The FRG, for instance, has already announced a loan of DM40 million to the Mogadiscio regime, which could also be used to purchase weapons.

The Soviet Union, which has taken the side of the victim of the aggression in accordance with the basic principles of its foreign policy, favors a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia through talks on the basis of the sides' mutual respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. The necessary precondition for this must, of course, be the unconditional and speedy withdrawal of Somali forces from Ethiopian territory. This position meets with the approval of all who are interested in strengthening peace and not in kindling hotbeds of tension.

Imperialist Plan

LD021311Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Jan 78 Morning Edition p 3 LD

[V. Kudryavtsev commentary: "Fanning the Fire"]

[Text] The development of events in the Horn of Africa leaves not the slightest doubt that we have here the most barefaced aggression by Somalia against neighboring Ethiopia. Even those standing in the wings of these dangerous actions cannot deny the fact that regular Somali Armed Forces are on Ethiopian territory.

The attempts of the Somali leadership to shift the blame onto someone else by accusing the Soviet Union and other socialist countries of supposedly preparing an invasion of Somali territory have been fully exposed for what they really are by both a TASS statement and objective evidence from Western representatives. Those who betray the principles of the national liberation movement resort, as a rule, to anti-Sovietism, which is always used in the interests of imperialist reaction. Therefore the anti-Sovietism of the Somali leaders is neither original nor new. They are treading the well-worn path which opponents of progress in the liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America are clearing for them.

Neither are Mogadiscio figures redeemed by their statements that they are "protecting" the interests of national minorities in Ethiopia. To whom then are these zealots appealing for sympathy and assistance? To those people who, quite recently, oppressed the Somalis themselves and other African peoples, who support the Israeli Zionists and the South African and Rhodesian racists and in general oppose the national liberation movement everywhere an opportunity presents itself. Such an opportunity has been presented to them by Mogadiscio's leaders.

The imperialists are striving to use Somalia primarily to strike a blow at the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia which is being accompanied by radical socioeconomic reforms. The victory of the Ethiopian revolution will mean strengthening the anti-imperialist trend of the national liberation movement in Africa.

Using Arab reaction, the imperialists are nurturing plans to transform the Red Sea into a closed "Arab lake" in order to control the most important sea route from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean. From their viewpoint Ethiopia is an obstacle in the path of realizing these plans.

Finally, it is important for the imperialists, primarily the United States, to draw the attention of the Arab peoples away from Near East affairs and to concentrate it on events on the Horn of Africa. The intentions of the NATO powers to draw the Arab League onto their side in these events are characteristic in this respect. The imperialists are making attempts to embroil the Arab and African countries and to prevent an anti-imperialist unity taking shape between them. Their intention to draw the capitulationist ruling circles of Egypt out of Arab isolation by devious means is a part of this. To make Egypt's deal with Israel easier under the cover of an anti-Ethiopian campaign by mobilizing the attention of the Arab countries in the wrong direction--this is one of the aims of the imperialists' policy in the Horn of Africa.

The concrete actions undertaken by the NATO countries also attest to all this. The first meeting of representatives of the United States, Britain, Italy, the FRG and France on events in the Horn of Africa has taken place. The FRG's agreement to give Somalia financial support initially of DM25 million and then DM40 million must doubtless be seen as one of the consequences of such a meeting in Washington. The sum allocated may be used, as was specially stipulated, also for the purchase of weapons. It is expected that a new meeting of representatives of the leading NATO countries on this very question will be held in the very near future.... In a word, Somalia and its inspirers are trying to internationalize the conflict in the Horn of Africa, which harbors the threat of transforming this as yet local conflict into a hotbed of war danger for a more extensive region.

The Soviet Union, as indeed all the world's progressive forces, considers that the conflict in the Horn of Africa must be resolved by the forces of the African countries themselves within the OAU framework, peacefully, by means of talks after the withdrawal of Somali troops from Ethiopian territory. Otherwise the world will be faced with the threat of the expansion of the conflict in the interests of the opponents of international detente.

MPLA PLAN TO PURGE 'HOSTILE ELEMENTS' REPORTED

LD021639Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Volkov report: "Fulfilling the Decisions of the Congress"]

[Text] Luanda, 30 January--The Central Committee Politburo of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA]--Labor Party has published a statement on the beginning of a campaign for the political and ideological education of party members and the reorganization of the MPLA-Labor Party apparatus in accordance with the demands of the statutes and program adopted at the first congress.

This statement was adopted in connection with the forthcoming celebration on 4 February of the 17th anniversary of the beginning of the Angolan people's armed struggle against the Portuguese colonialists.

The Politburo notes that the main task of the campaign is to strengthen party ranks and purge it of hostile elements and to combat petit bourgeois ideology. The statement points out the necessity of increasing revolutionary vigilance and of irreconcilable struggle against subversive activity and the attempts by imperialist forces to smother the Angolan revolution and prevent Angola's development along the path of socialism.

PAVLOVSKIY DEPARTS MOSCOW FOR OFFICIAL VISIT TO LAOS

LD011239Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Jan 78 p 3 LD

[Text] On 28 January Army General I.G. Pavlovskiy, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of ground forces, left Moscow for the Lao People's Democratic Republic on an official visit at the invitation of K. Siphandon, Lao deputy prime minister and minister of national defense and commander in chief of the People's Liberation Army of Laos.

Army Gen I.G. Pavlovskiy was accompanied to Sheremetyevo Airport by Army Gen S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister, and other Soviet generals and officers.

Among the sendoff party was Comrade F. Bouphha, Lao charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR.

Lao Media Report Visit

For Vientiane media reportage on the visit of a military delegation headed by Army Gen I.G. Pavlovskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy minister of defense and commander in chief of ground forces, see the 30 January Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

NEW ATTACKS ON SRV CITIES, FISHING BOATS REPORTED

LD021155Y Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, February 2, TASS--The VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY issued a report on Kampuchea's new armed attacks on the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV).

From January 21 to 28, Kampuchean troops more than once staged reconnaissance operations in the SRV territory and bombarded border areas of the Vietnamese provinces of Gia Lai-Cong Tum and Dac Lac in central highlands. In Tay Ninh Province on January 27 during an incursion, Kampuchean units lost about 200 soldiers killed or wounded as well as a large amount of various arms.

On January 30 Kampuchea's warships fired on Vietnamese fishing junk that were in the Gulf of Siam near the port of Ha Tien. On the same day the city of Chau Doc, the administrative centre of An Giang Province was shelled by heavy guns from Kampuchean territory. On January 31 artillery fire was brought down on the suburban areas of another provincial centre, Tay Ninh, which is 90 kilometres north of the city of Ho Chi Minh. Thirty civilians were killed or wounded in Tay Ninh.

JAPAN UNHAPPY WITH SOVIET RESPONSE TO SATELLITE INCIDENT

OW0212257Y Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 2 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 2 KYODO--The Soviet Union told Japan Thursday it saw no need to inform Japan in advance of the fall of a Soviet nuclear-powered satellite that crashed in Canada January 24 because it appeared to disintegrate over the high seas near the Aleutians.

Moscow's reply to a Japanese protest over the incident was handed to Yashushi Miyazawa, director general of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau, by Boris M. Zinovyev, minister-counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

It also made these points: (1) The official TASS news agency published information about the satellite; (2) Prior notice was planned as soon as the satellite seemed about to disintegrate over the territorial air space of any particular country; and (3) The U.S. was informed as the satellite burned up over the high seas near the Aleutians.

But the Soviet Union failed to refer to the Japanese request for steps to prevent future such incidents. The reply said the Soviet Government was prepared to help Canada remove the wreckage of the fallen satellite.

Miyazawa expressed dissatisfaction with the reply and called on the Soviet Union to supply Japan with full information of the incident as well as prior information and take steps to prevent recurrences of similar danger.

JAPANESE-SOVIET FISHING NEGOTIATIONS TO BE HELD IN MOSCOW

OW0306144Y Tokyo KYODO in English 0435 GMT 3 Feb 78 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 3 KYODO--Japan-Soviet negotiations on salmon fishing operations in the open waters in the northwestern Pacific and for conclusion of a bilateral fishery cooperation agreement will be started in Moscow February 15, the Agriculture-Forestry Ministry said Thursday.

Prior to the Japan-Soviet talks, negotiations will be held among Japan, the United States and Canada from Feburary 7 on salmon fishing operations in the North Pacific. The two negotiations are expected to continue until the end of April when this year's salmon fishing operations will get under way.

U.S.-JAPAN TRADE TALKS FALTER, U.S. ARMTWISTING SEEN

LD0214344Y Moscow TASS in English 1418 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

["From Handshake to Arms Twisting"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, Feburary 2, TASS--Some observers' optimistic forecasts that the American-Japanese "trade war" will subside proved premature. Speaking in the Senate International Trade Subcommittee on Wednesday, Robert Strauss, U.S. President's special representative at the trade talks, warned Japan that its huge surplus in trade with the United States is unacceptable to the United States. He did not conceal his exasperation over the fact that Japan's promises to relax protectionist barriers and take measures to boost the import from the USA remain just words up to now.

According to expert estimates, the U.S. deficit in trade with Japan may exceed ten billion dollars by the end of her current fiscal year ending March 31, 1978. According to Strauss, it will take not less than eight years to reach parity in American-Japanese trade.

To eliminate Japan's huge trade surplus, Washington is demanding that Tokyo boost the import of American farm produce and manufactures, mainly automobiles, grain and meat; increase capital investments in the U.S. economy predominantly with a view to creating additional job opportunities there and promoting a (?reabsorption) of unemployment; stimulate its own economy for the Japanese buyers to purchase more import goods. If this ultimatum is not implemented, the U.S. is threatening to raise a barrier to imports from Japan.

Mr Strauss told the subcommittee members that in private conversation he warned the Japanese side of the U.S. Congress' determination to develop trade on Washington's terms or it will see to it that it does not work at all.

Such threats are an indication that at this stage of relations between the trading "partners", handshakes were followed by arms twisting.

DPRK MEMORANDUM DENOUNCES EFFORTS TO PREVENT REUNIFICATION

LD021515Y Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Pyongyang, February 2, TASS--At a press conference here, a spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry read the text of a memorandum of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In it the government sharply denounced the policy of the United States of America, the Japanese authorities and the South Korean regime, designed to perpetuate the partition of Korea and thus to lay obstacles to the Korean people's desire for reunification. The memorandum says that the policy of "two Koreas" has been for a long time the basic policy of the United States vis-a-vis Korea.

The reunification of Korea, the memorandum next says, is an internal matter for the Korean people. The tension in Korea and its partition are a result of intervention by ourside forces and their disruptive machinations. As for the South Korean "regime", it is by no means an independent regime independent states could maintain relations with but is a tool of United States' colonialist policy.

The Government of the DPRK regards simultaneous admission of the north and south of Korea to the United Nations as an unrealistic way of reuniting the country. It has always advocated admission to the United Nations of a unified Korea or, at least, a confederation of the north and the south.

The memorandum denounces the militarisation of South Korea, the military and other aid to Seoul from the United States and Japan, assertions on the necessity of a "balance of forces" on the Korean Peninsula. All this, the memorandum says, could lead to the outbreak of another war in Korea.

The Government of the DPRK and the entire Korean people in their memorandum called upon the governments and peoples of the socialist countries, the non-aligned states, the governments and peoples of all peaceable countries of the world vigorously to support and actively to help the Koreans in their struggle for the peaceful and independent reunification of the country.

BREZHNEV, KOSYGIN, OTHER LEADERS ATTEND OPERA IN MOSCOW

LD011750Y Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 1, TASS--The opera "Il Trovatore" written by the great Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi 125 years ago figures prominently in the Bolshoy repertoire by right. Today's show of the opera was attended by the general secretary of the CPSU CC, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev; a member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU CC, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Aleksey Kosygin; members of the CPSU CC Political Bureau Andrey Kirilenko, Fedor Kulakov, Arvid Pelshe, Mikhail Suslov, Dmitriy Ustinov and an alternate member of the CPSU CC Political Bureau Petr Demichev. They were ardently and cordially greeted by all those present. The show was a big success.

NOVIKOV ADDRESSES ALL-UNION PRESS CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

LD011500Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 1 Feb 78 LD

[Summary] An all-union press conference on the theme of the third year of the 5-year plan ended in Moscow today. Journalists had been discussing the role of the media in socialist competition. "The journalists were addressed by Novikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee, heads of ministries and departments."

SOLOMENTSEV OPENS ALL-RUSSIAN HEALTH SERVICE CONFERENCE

LD311520Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 31 Jan 78 LD

[Text] An all-Russian conference on questions of further improving the national health service began in Moscow today. The conference was opened by Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. A report or the implementation of the decision of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on measures to further improve the national health service was delivered by Lukovo, deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

FAILINGS REVEALED BY 1977 PLAN PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTED

LD020849Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Toward New Heights in the 5-Year Plan"]

[Text] Our motherland is at an important stage of fulfilling the 10th 5-Year Plan. Full of creative strength, energy and optimism, the Soviet people are confidently scaling new and ever greater heights in the 5-year plan. Its third year has started well, in shock fashion.

We have a firm basis for further advancement along all the main salients of communist building outlined by the 25th CPSU Congress. This is convincingly reaffirmed by the results, published yesterday, of the implementation of the state plan for the development of the USSR national economy in 1977. In the laconic data from the Central Statistical Administration the Soviet people see the weighty fruits of their labor and the consistent implementation of the party's policy and also the result of the struggle to improve production efficiency and work quality.

Last year saw both the 60th anniversary of the Soviet state and the adoption of the new constitution, and was marked with further successes in the country's socioeconomic development. National income totaled R398 billion, an increase of R13.5 billion in the year. Industrial output increased by 5.7 percent, or R30 billion, reaching R562 billion. Under complex weather conditions kolkoz members and sovkhoz workers achieved an increase in total farming and livestock-raising output compared with last year, producing 195.5 million tons of grain and record cotton and rice crops. Total agricultural output last year amounted to R123.6 billion, almost 9 percent more than average annual production in the Ninth 5-Year Plan. One of the most important features of developing the socialist economy is improving technical and economic indicators and output quality.

The growth in the national economy more fully satisfies the material and spiritual requirements of working people in accordance with the social program devised by the party. Per capita real income in 1977 increased 3.5 percent. Almost 11 million Soviet citizens improved their housing situation and the system of schools and children's, medical and cultural and domestic establishments was expanded.

However substantial the successes in the country's socioeconomic development, we cannot be complacent. Not being content with what has been achieved but going surely on and surely achieving more was what V.I. Lenin taught. The same is taught by the party, concentrating attention on the unsolved problems and weak spots which exist in the national economy.

The results of the second year of the 5-year plan show that achievements in improving production efficiency still do not fully accord either with the 25th CPSU Congress demands or our potential. Some production associations and enterprises failed to meet the targets set for the manufacture of certain kinds of output and for growth in labor productivity. The plan for the production of rolled ferrous metal, mineral fertilizers, freightcars, commercial timber, cement, machine tools, refrigerators and meat was not fully met. Dispersion of resources, an increase in the volume of unfinished construction work and delays in commissioning new production capacities have been tolerated. Losses of work time and also of raw and finished materials are still great at a number of enterprises and construction projects.

Clear and precise ways to eliminate these and other shortcomings which hinder progress were indicated by the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum. The main thing now is to insure the implementation of its decisions and to carry out the tasks advanced in the plenum speech by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and in the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee "on mounting socialist competition to fulfill and overfulfill the 1978 plan and intensify the struggle to improve production efficiency and work quality." Guided by these documents, it is necessary to thoroughly analyze the results of economic activity and to elaborate and implement specific measures to raise the level of this activity even more.

The party calls for fuller use of the resources at the disposal of the national economy so as to augment social wealth. This demands first and foremost the highest possible level of organization and responsibility and a strengthening of labor, production and planning discipline in all spheres and sectors of economic building. One of the main reserves for our further growth is the careful and rational use of all material, labor and financial resources and the achievement of the highest possible results with the least expenditure. Increased labor productivity was and remains the decisive condition of the acceleration of the economy's development rate. The most important thing now is to obtain all output growth in existing enterprises by raising labor productivity. In this connection the fulfillment of plans for the introduction of new equipment and the scientific organization of labor are of paramount significance.

Bringing into play the tremendous reserves for our further growth means developing in every way the creative activity of the masses and mobilizing the efforts, knowledge and ability of every labor collective to meet the targets of the 5-year plan. Relying on the experience of the nationwide shock vigil in honor of the 60th anniversary of Great October, party organizations are called on to head the patriotic initiative of millions of people, support and disseminate the valuable initiatives of leading workers and insure new scope in and the increased efficiency of socialist competition. "It is necessary," Comrade L. I. Brezhnev said at the CPSU Central Committee December plenum, "to maintain and consolidate the labor enthusiasm and rhythm of the jubilee competition. Work better today than yesterday and better tomorrow than today. That is the slogan of the day. And better means putting stress on quality and efficiency and on increased labor productivity. The heart of socialist pledges, as of our economic activities as a whole, is precisely here."

The fate of our plans is decided by the will, intellect and energy of working people, kolkhoz members and the intelligentsia, inspired by the Communist Party. Their shock labor and high level of organization are the true guarantee of the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the targets of 1978 and the 5-year plan as a whole, and the main source of the might and prosperity of the motherland.

PRIMARY PARTY ORGANIZATIONS MUST HELP ACHIEVE GOALS

LD311323Y Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 25 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "A Lofty Duty"]

[Excerpts] May 1978 become a year of shock labor and new successes and victories! The embodiment in practical deeds of the appeal addressed to all Soviet people in the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee is the top priority task of party organizations.

All organizational and mass-political work must be subordinated to insuring a precise working rhythm and to each labor collective fulfilling plans and socialist pledges. The primary party organizations are called upon to actively influence the further enhancement of social production efficiency and output quality and to create a favorable atmosphere for harmonious work and creative pursuit.

The patriotic movement to overfulfill scheduled plans is assuming a broad scale. Tens of thousands of collectives are pledging to fulfill the target for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan by the first anniversary of the new USSR Constitution. "The duty of the party organization...," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, points out, "is to insure that the labor activity of the Soviet people continues to increase so that lively participation in the solution of fundamental economic problems may intensify even more."

Practice attests that only a comprehensive approach to the solution of problems of technical progress and of enhancing production efficiency and quality and the organic unity of political and economic activity promote the dynamic development of the economy and the stable work of each enterprise.

Local examples graphically confirm the indisputable fact that where the party organizations investigate production life comprehensively and in depth, and use all means to exert organizational and ideological influence on improving work in all levels of the economy, state plans are successfully fulfilled and the program of social development is actively implemented. However, as noted in the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee, in the first 2 years of the 5-year plan every 11th industrial enterprise failed to cope with the sales plan and the rhythmic nature of production is not always insured everywhere. It follows from this that the standard of work in certain party organizations does not accord with the demands of the times and that they have insufficient influence on economic matters.

The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum and the speech at that plenum by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, provided an in-depth analysis of the development of the economy, revealed serious shortcomings in the activity of certain sectors of the national economy and pointed out ways to eliminate these shortcomings and overcome bottlenecks. The combat task of the primary party organizations is to make the working people deeply aware of the tremendous importance and significance of these fundamental documents, to wage a determined struggle against any laxity and disorganization, and to mobilze the masses in the campaign for a thrifty attitude toward expenditure of raw and semi-finished materials, fuel and electric power. It is essential to create an atmosphere of public intolerance toward bad workmen, loafers and violators of labor, planning and technological discipline. Party organizations are called upon to resolutely step up their exactingness toward cadres.

The major tasks which are to be solved in the 3d year of the 5-year plan require of each party organization and each communist the maximum degree of organization and presence of mind, and a high level of discipline.

The primary party organizaions are on the frontline of economic and cultural building and operate in the very thick of the people; the solution of the tasks of the 10th 5-Year Plan depends tremendously on their influence. They are called upon to direct the entire arsenal of organizational and mass political means toward insuring that socialist competition develops on an even wider scale, and that the labor struggle for the successful practical implementation of the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress proceeds more actively.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

CPSU, MINISTERS ADOPT DECISION ON SUGAR BEETS, POTATOES

LD020940Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on improving selection and seed-breeding of sugar beets and potatoes. It provides for the drafting and implementation of measures to accelerate development and initiate production of high-productivity varieties and hybrids suitable for mechanized cultivation, corresponding to the demands of intensive agriculture.

MOSCOW RADIO AGRICULTURAL REPORTS FOR 30 JAN-2 FEB

LD030820 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1900 GMT on 30 January reports that snow retention work is underway in the third and last million hectares in Omskaya Oblast. The radio reports at 1100 GMT on 1 February that 800,000 hectares have been sown with soya in the Far East. Officials expect to harvest 25-30 quintals of beans per hectare, as well as 250-300 quintals per hectare of "green mass" of fodder. The radio reports at 1100 GMT on 2 February that farmers of Saratovskaya Oblast are pledging to harvest 7.4 million tons of grain. The report adds that winter crops cover 800,000 hectares in the oblast.

SOLOMENTSEV OPENS SARATOV AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

LD021312Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Saratov--A zonal conference of agricultural workers of the Volga Region and Orenburgskaya Oblast opened here today. Opening the conference Solomentsev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, noted that about a third of all RSFSR agricultural land is located in those areas. They are big suppliers of grain, sunflowers, meat and other agricultural produce.

SLOWNESS IN PREPARING EQUIPMENT MUST BE ELIMINATED

LD301727Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 78 p 1 LD

[A. Pazhitnev agricultural review: "Reliably, With a Guarantee"]

[Excerpts] The closer spring comes, the more cares the working people have. The winter days are marked by special efforts by machine operators. Having responded warmly to the letter of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee on developing socialist competition to fulfill and overfulfill the 1978 plan, they are seeking to put all equipment into service more quickly. How, then, is this work being done on farms?

Figures from the USSR Central Statistical Administration show that this year the pace of machinery repairs is considerably higher than a year ago. By the beginning of January the country's kolkhozes and sovkhozes had made ready 2,017,000 tractors (81 percent of the total pool) and 282,500 grain-harvesting combines (42 percent). Some 79 percent of motor vehicles, 88 percent of plows, 86 percent of cultivators and 83 percent of seeders were in good repair.

Machine operators in Belorussia, Stavropolskiy Kray and Ivanovskaya, Vladimirskaya, Belgorodskaya and Odesskaya oblasts--initiators of the all-union socialist competition for the timely and high-quality preparation of equipment--are successfully fulfilling their pledges. In Belorussia, for example, 89 out of every 100 tractors are ready to go into the fields. All plows, seeders and cultivators are already in good repair on farms in the Stavropol district and in Ivanovskaya, Vlvadimirskaya and Odesskaya oblasts. The repair of sowing and soil-cultivating implements is coming to an end in Belgorodskaya, Bryanskaya, Kurskaya, Penzenskaya and Rostovskaya oblasts, Altayskiy Kray and the Bashkirskaya ASSR.

In the Ukraine machine operators in Kievskaya, Kharovskaya, Rovenskaya, Krymskaya and Zakarpatskaya oblasts are preparing equipment for the spring in an organized manner, exceeding the established targets. In Kazakhstan repairs are being carried out considerably better than in previous years in Tselinogradskaya, Kustanayskaya and Severo-Kazakhstanskaya oblasts.

In a number of regions, however, serious concern is being aroused by laggardness over preparing the "hercules" of the steppe--the Kirovets tractors. Thus, in the RSFSR 15,000 machines were still in disrepair by the beginning of January, and 10,000 in Kazakhstan. Many Kirovets are standing idle in workshops in Kuybyshevskaya, Novosibirskaya, Chitinskaya, Semipalatinskaya, Taldy-Kurganskaya and Turgayskaya oblasts.

Farmers well know that once spring fieldwork begins it is difficult to "carve out" time to repair harvesting equipment. Therefore, many farms endeavor to prepare reapers and grain and corn-harvesting combines before the spring work begins. Machine operators in Ivanovskaya Oblast are setting an example here. At the same time, combines are being repaired slowly in Volgogradskaya, Voronezhskaya, Aktyubinskaya, Dzhambulskaya and Kzyl-Ordinskaya oblasts.

Why, then, is the pace of preparing equipment low in a number of regions? There are several reasons. Above all, there is unsatisfactory organization of repair work in kolkhozes, sovkhozes and "Selkhoztekhnika" associations. The production capacities of workshops are frequently used primarily in one shift.

The second reason is the shortage of necessary components. Many republics report that it is extremely difficult to obtain spare parts for the K-700, T-150K and DT-75M tractors, for the Niva and Kolos combines and for beet-harvesting complexes. Operational data show that out of 173 different components on the so-called nominal list, plants of the Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building failed to fulfill the plan for 16 of them last year. In addition, a number of enterprises failed to cope with the delivery of other spare parts.

Take the Altay motor plant, for example. It undersupplied the countryside by 16,800 crankshafts. The Pavlodar tractor plant, Yaroslavl motor plant, the "Kievtraktorodetal" and "Odessapochvomash" production associations, "Rostselmash," the Taganrog combine plant and Novorossiysk's "Krasnyy Dvigatel" are also in debt to the farmers.

This year rural workers are faced with raising the gross grain yield to not less than 220 million tons and considerably increasing production and purchases of sugar beets, cotton, sunflower seeds, vegetables, meat, milk, eggs and other produce. A great deal here depends on rural machine operators. It is their duty to prepare equipment for work so that it does not stand idle in the furrow.

SALYUT-6 REFUELING PROGRAM FROM PROGRESS-1 COMPLETED

LD021234Y Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 2 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 2, TASS--The special TASS correspondent reports from flight control center:

Yuriy Romanenko's and Georgiy Grechko's working day on board the piloted orbital complex began at 6 hours 30 minutes, Moscow time. Today's programme provides for the refuelling of the Salyut-6 with fuel carried by the cargo transport craft Progress-1.

After preparatory operations, including control of the on-board systems of the station and the transport craft, checking of the fuelling pipes and automatic facilities, the crew began work in filling the fuel tanks of the station. The process of refuelling was being effected under control by the crew and specialists of the flight control center.

According to telemetric information and reports from the cosmonauts, the Salyut-6 refuelling programme has been completely carried out.

The on-board systems of the complex function smoothly.

The cosmonauts feel well.

The flight of the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27-Progress-1 space complex continues.

ADDITION TO ITEM ON REALISTIC U.S., CANADIAN APPROACH TO COSMOS-954

The following addition to the item entitled "Washington, Ottawa Display 'Realistic Approach' on Cosmos-954," published in the 30 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page U 1, is taken from Moscow PRAVDA on 28 January.

PRAVDA adds the following introductory paragraph:

The spaceship and the atomic reactor have become symbols of scientific and technical progress. Without the use of space technology and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes it is difficult to imagine the future, and in particular the foundation of every country's economy--power. Today dozens of atomic power stations are in operation and unmanned stations and earth satellites are in orbit. There are radio isotope power sources on the Soviet lunar module, the American interplanet Pioneer station and USSR and U.S. artificial satellites. Scientists dream of nuclear engines which will carry interplanetary stations into outer space. This is the trend of scientific development and it is obvious.

MARSHAL KUTAKHOV LAUDS STRENGTH OF SOVIET AIR FORCE

LD301617Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Jan 78 p 2 LD

[Article by Hero of the Soviet Union Chief Mar Avn P. Kutakhov, USSR deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the air force: "The Baton of Courage and Skill"]

[Text] The life and combat study of Soviet Air Force personnel is filled with high patriotic aspirations. Guided by the 25th party congress decisions, the CPSU Central Committee plenum resolutions and the tenets and conclusions contained in the speeches of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the airmen, like all the armed defenders of the land of the soviets, are striving to mark the glorious jubilee of the army and navy by new achievements in combat improvement and in fulfilling their socialist pledges.

When observing the operations of our airmen, when speaking to them, one senses a feeling of great pride in the fact that in our mighty system of defenders of the motherland there are true masters of military matters who are worthily continuing and increasing the combat glory of their forefathers and fathers who were heroes in the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War. The Leninist Communist Party has reared a fine generation of staunch, courageous, skillful fighters with true ideological conviction who are ready for any feat in the name of communist ideals. It is precisely these men, reared by the party, our remarkable technical flying cadres, who determine the main power of the air force.

Pilots and navigators who are graduates of higher military institutes and have engineering skills are now entering the air force units. Personnel of the engineer and technical service and of the communications and rear formations are distinguished by their high level of general education and their professional training. Nearly all soldiers, sergeants and ensigns of air force units and formations have secondary, incomplete higher or higher education. Representing all the nations and nationalities of our multinational motherland, they live and work in one combat family.

The fruits of the worldwide historic socioeconomic and cultural transformations which have occurred in the country under the leadership of the party in the years of Soviet power are clearly apparent in the ideological and political maturity of our servicemen and the growth of the general educational and professional training of the personnel.

The airmen treasure their allegiance to the air force, which is a romantic service. It gives great scope to a man's initiative and creativity, polishes his character and allows him to fully reveal the remarkable qualities and abilities of a fighter defending his motherland's air frontiers. It is no coincidence that the first Soviet space heroes were airmen. They are continuing to worthily carry the baton of courage and skill of our military pilots.

The party and people are constantly concerned about strengthening the country's defense capability and raising the combat readiness of all branches of the armed forces. This concern is clearly manifest in the technical equipping of the air force. The implementation of Lenin's plan to industrialize the country back in the years of the prewar 5-year plans made it possible to radically change the appearance of the air force. [paragraph continues]

Even then remarkable combat machinery created by the labor of talented Soviet designers, engineers, technical workers of our aircraft industry began to appear in ever increasing numbers to arm the units.

Today's Soviet Air Force represents a formidable and mighty branch of the armed forces. Possessing great strike force, it is able to influence the outcome of major operations both in ground and sea theaters of military operations.

Today missile-carrying aircraft equipped with the latest arms, enemy detection and fire direction devices and the latest navigation apparatus form the basis of the might of the air force. Recently new multipurpose swingwing aircraft and vertical take-off and landing aircraft have been created.

Thanks to the new equipment with which the air force divisions and units have been fitted, aviation has acquired the high qualities that are essential for successful operations, such as all-weather round-the-clock combat use and the ability to effectively overcome the opponent's air defense system, to strike well behind enemy lines, to insure and maintain supremacy in the air and to resolve many complex tasks.

Soviet airmen are working with great enthusiasm to master combat equipment and new aviation drills and are persistently raising air training. In the past study year the personnel of formations, units and aviation institutes took a new step forward in improving combat. The airmen fully carried out the socialist pledges adopted in honor of the 60th anniversary of Great October. Every other airman became an honored pupil. The number of specialists with the highest flying qualification, masters of combat application and pilots and navigators and gunners increased. Many technicians and young aviation specialists also raised their class qualification. There was anoticeable improvement in the quality of combat flights. The servicemen in the units and formations commanded by officers V. Telegin, V. Vasilyev, Yu. Savosin, N. Chugunov and P. Polyakov achieved the highest results in combat and political training.

The achievements of these competition leaders became possible thanks to the great organizational work of the commanders and political workers, and of staff, party and Komsomol organizations.

Of course, favorable results cannot but please us. However, what we have achieved today is not the limit, and we must not stop. The party teaches us to assess our work critically and to concentrate our attention on unresolved questions. Speaking at the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum, Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed: "It is essential to preserve and strengthen the labor enthusiasm and rhythm of the jubilee competition. Work better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today. This is the slogan of the day."

The airmen accept and support this party demand with all their hearts.

Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, USSR minister of defense, has defined the responsible and complex tasks facing air force personnel in the new study year. The qualitative fulfillment of these tasks depends decisively on dilligence and organization in the work of all links of our great military organism. The initiative and persistence of every general, officer, ensign, sergeant and soldier are necessary here.

Today the letter from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee "on the development of socialist competition to fulfill and overfulfill the 1978 plan and to intensify the struggle to increase production efficiency and work quality" has found a warm response in all units and formations. This important document was perceived by the personnel as a concrete action program to further develop socialist competition. The appeal of the initiators of the competition in the air force--the personnel of the Guards Aviation Red Guard Order of Lenin, twice decorated with Order of the Red Banner, Order of Kutuzov 50th Anniversary of the USSR Regiment--to continue the race of the Great October jubilee year and to become actively involved in the socialist competition for a fitting welcome to the 60th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces has been widely taken up in all military collectives. The movement for the foremost division is also becoming increasingly large scale.

The organizational and political and educational work of the commanders and political organs and the party and Komsomol organizations is directed toward unconditional fulfillment and overfulfillment of the pledges made. Their activity is imbued with concern that every unit, division, military institute and every serviceman clearly know the concrete indicators with which they must meet the jubilee of the army and navy and that the struggle to achieve these indicators furthers the improvement of the instruction and educational process, the strengthening of discipline and combat readiness and the execution of flight work without incidents and their preconditions. To improve flight training, to master equipment and weapons well and to strike the target with the first missile, bomb or shell--this is the combat slogan of the Soviet air fighters.

As always the communists emerge as the spirit and supporters of everything new and foremost in the service and in socialist competition. They comprise the combat nucleus of crews, wings, squadrons and units. Full-blooded party organizations are now operating actively in all divisions, and party groups in all aircraft crews. By personal example and passionate party word the communists rally the military collectives and mobilize their fellow servicemen into further raising political vigilance and combat readiness.

For almost 60 years now the brilliant Soviet Armed Forces have been the reliable shield of the great socialist power. The airmen are proud of the glorious revolutionary and combat traditions of the army and navy and of the fact that the older generations of winged fighters glorified the combat banners of the units and formations with their immortal feats in the fire of the battles of the Civil War and the Great Patriotic War. Heroes known throughout the country and throughout the world came from the ranks of the air troops. Their feats in the name of the motherland personify the gigantic strength of the people's spirit and their utter devotion to the ideals of the revolution and of communism.

Inheritors and continuators of the heroic traditions, the Soviet airmen are vigilantly following the intrigues of the enemies of peace and socialism. Ardently approving the internal and foreign policy of the CPSU, the air force personnel will continue to honorably fulfill their high constitutional duty--to reliably defend the socialist fatherland, and to be onconstant combat alert, guaranteeing the immediate repulse of any aggressor.

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